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Geographical & Statistical Report of the Dinagepore District / Maj. J. L. Sherwill, 1863

Statistical Report Bengal

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GEOGRAPHICAL AND STATISTICAL REPORT

OF THE

DINAGEPORE DISTRICT.

GENERAL REMARKS.

Geographical position and boundaries.

DINAGEPORE is one of the largest rice producing Districts in Bengal. It is situated between the parallels of 24° 50′ and 26° 25′ north latitude, and meridians of 88° 10′ and 89° 24′ east longitude, and the Capital is in 25° 38′ north latitude, and 88° 41′ east longitude. It presents a remarkably flat surface, very little elevated above the sea level, abounding in rivers, water-courses, swamps, and rich rice lands. It has an area of 4,586 square miles, and is bounded to the North by the Districts of Rungpoor and Purneah; to the East by the Districts of Rungpore and Bograh; to the South by the Districts of Bograh and Rajshahye; and to the West by the Districts of Maldah and Purneah. The Kurrooteea River forms a natural eastern boundary for about 100 miles, dividing Dinajepore from Rungpore and Bograh. The Nagur and Mohanuddy Rivers form the natural boundary of the District to the westward.

The whole of this large tract does not belong to Dinagepore Proper. Some entire pergunnahs and portions of others, having an area of 518½ square miles, containing about 1,576 villages, and yielding an annual revenue of more than 50,000 Rupees, were transferred to Bograh in 1851, and at the present date belong to that District; but the re-transfer of some of these lands, and the final adjustment of the Bograh and Dinajepore boundaries, are at present under consideration.

Another tract of country bordering on Maldah, and included in the survey of that District, containing an area of 175 square miles, belongs to Dinagepore.

Area and sub-division of District.

The area of the entire tract included in the Dinagepore survey, and under consideration in this Report, is, as already stated, 4,586 square miles, and is divided into 84 pergunnahs, the lands of which are so cut up and intermixed as to baffle all attempts of a Revenue Surveyor to define their limits, or even assign them a locality on the maps, except a few of the northern ones. In addition to these 84 pergunnahs, there are portions of 14 more, belonging to other Districts. For the convenience of surveying, the whole has been lumped up into 38 convenient sized blocks.

These have been defined on the professional maps by distinguishing colors, and named after the pergunnah of which each one is chiefly composed. Some of these blocks contain portions of as many as 25 pergunnahs.

Number and size of villages.

There are 9,425 villages, containing an average area of 311½ acres, but those to the North of the District are much larger than those to the South, which average only 210 acres, or less than one-third of a square mile.

GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES.

Rivers.

The District of Dinagepore is everywhere intersected by rivers, dry water-courses, small streams, and ditches.

The principal Rivers are Kurroteea, Juboona, Attrai, Poornababa, Nagur, Coolik, Mahauuddy, and Tangun. Some of the minor ones to the South are the Gooksee, Toolseegunga, Kharre, Tillai, Cheeree, Chota Juboona, Hurunbattee, Issamuttee, and to the North the Deepa, Gogra, Kankra, Tinaie, &c.

The Kurroteea is a sluggish and tortuous river, navigable for large boats during the rains, and for small boats and canoes during the dry season. The principal grain marts are Raneegunge, and Ghoraghat, and further South, in Bograh District, the large towns of Seebgunge and Bograh. The town of Nawabgunge is situated on the banks of the old Kurroteea.

The Juboona is also navigable for large boats during the rains, and possesses several large grain marts, Berampoor, Kantla, Hillee, Joypoor, Jamalgunge, &c. It bifurcates at Joypoor, and unites at Etakotta; the eastern channel is called the Chota, and the western the Bora Juboona.

The Attrai enters Dinajepore from Rungpore on the North-East, and after passing through this and the Rajshahye Districts from North to South, falls into the Ganges at different points under different names. It is navigable for the largest boats during the rains, and for small ones and canoes during the dry season. It is a sluggish stream running in a wide channel, and constantly changes its course. The principal grain marts are Jubarree, Huringata Bazar, and Khansamagunge to the North, and Sumjeea, Fukeergunge, Pateeram, Puglebundur, Muddungunge, Balooghat, Rungmuttee, and Putneetollah to the South.

The Attrai being the more direct course of the old Teesta, whose waters were diverted into the Burmapootra in the year 1787-88, has suffered considerably in consequence, and the large grain marts to the North have declined in proportion.

The Poornababa River, a confluent of the Mahanuddy, is also navigable for large boats during the rains, and for boats of 200 maunds to Nyabundur, till the 1st January, and for small boats and canoes the rest of the year. The principal grain depôts are at Beergunge, Kantanugur, town of Dinagepore, Nyabundur, Dumdumma, and Gungarampoor.

The Tangun, also a tributary of the Mahanuddy, enters Dinagepore on the extreme northern boundary, runs through a stiff yellow clay soil, has steep banks, and its bed is confined

to narrower limits than other rivers of equal importance. It is navigable to its northern limit for large boats during the rains, and during the remainder of the year boats of 2 or 300 maunds can ascend 50 miles, and small boats and canoes the whole way.

The principal marts for grain are Nischinteepoor, Raneegunge, Sadamul, Sirail, Chowsa Kismut, Sibpoor, Rhadanuggur, &c.

The Nagur, likewise a tributary of the Mahanuddy, is navigable to its northern extremity for large boats during the rains, and for small boats and canoes for the rest of the year. It enters the District at its extreme northernmost point, and forms the western boundary of the District for 100 or 110 miles, when it falls into the Mahanuddy. The principal granaries on it are at Hureepoor, Kasimpoor, and Odaipoor.

The Coolik, a minor tributary of the Mahanuddy River, takes its rise in a Bheel in the northern portion of the District, bifurcates about one mile above Serajgunge Hât; the two branches, after nearly a parallel course, the one of 20 miles, under the name of Kynch, the other of about 25 miles, retaining its original name, again mingle their waters in the Nagur River. The important grain mart of Raigunge is situated on the latter or eastern branch near its junction. The Mahanuddy, the most important of all these rivers, forms the South-Western boundary of the District for about 15 miles. The large grain mart of Chooramun is situated on its left bank.

These rivers, together with numerous minor ones, and endless small streams and *khalls*, all of which, more or less, have a southerly course, and flow eventually into the great Ganges, are so connected with each other, as to form a complete intersection of net work over the entire District; but since the waters of the Teesta have been turned from their original course into the Berampooter, the Attrai, Pooranbaba, Juboona, and Kurrotoea Rivers have diminished very considerably, and are rendered of less importance for commercial purposes, and the trade in many of the largest grain marts to the North of the District has fallen off. The beds of many small rivers have become silted up and choked; but, independent of the loss of large body of water formerly brought down by the old Teesta, the natural inclination of the rivers in this District, as everywhere else in Bengal, is to silt up, and it is probable that in the course of a few years the number of perennial streams will have considerably lessened. Half filled up beds of former rivers may now be seen all over the District, forming long stagnant pools of water and jheels, the feeding places of numerous kinds of aquatic birds and wild fowl. Where the beds have become entirely filled up, rich crops of paddy are grown, and where only partially filled, they are very favorable to the growth of early crops of a rice called *bora dhan*, and to the light pithy water plant called sola,* now so extensively used in the manufacture of sola hats.

* "Aschynomene paludosa."

Ditches.

Ditches present a remarkable feature in the southern portion of the District, and are cut over the whole surface of the country. They are met with even in dense forests, especially in the Poollee, or high land. They are evidently the work of centuries, and seem to have been dug by the Bengalee ryots with a threefold purpose, *viz.* :—

1*st.*—For raising the land for crops of sugarcane above the influence of inundations.

2nd.—For protecting their crops from stray cattle.

3rd.—For the sake of the black soil which accumulates in them during the rains, and which forms the principal manure for the sugarcane cultivation year after year.

These ditches often retain water all the year, and add to the unhealthiness of the South part of the District.

Tanks.

There is another remarkable feature in the southern portion of the District, the northern part is comparatively free from them. These tanks are likewise the work of ages, and could only have been dug at enormous cost. They are generally supposed to indicate a state of prosperity and populousness greatly in excess of that of the present time, and various conjectures exist amongst Europeans as to their origin; but their existence, I think, may be satisfactorily explained as follows. They have no existence out of Bengal to anything like the same extent; they are peculiar to Bengal. The use of them is to supply drinking water to man and beast. In the South, they entirely supersede wells. In season 1858-59, in a small area of 673 square miles, surveyed by the 2nd Division, no less a number than 10,638 appeared on the maps, a number altogether in excess of the wants of the population. Bengalees in general consider that nothing is more praiseworthy than to make a tank, dig a well, or plant trees, for the good of their fellow-beings. This laudable idea arises from religious motives, and from a desire to propitiate the Deity. Hence, when a zemindar in this rural district has amassed a fortune, his first thoughts are turned to digging a tank, and no one who has not dug one, is esteemed a patriot, or regarded as a *big* man; and hence it is that a dozen tanks may be seen in some localities so closely huddled together, as to be totally useless, and such could only have been dug by religious devotees, for the purpose of propitiation, or in ostentation by the rich zemindars, in the vain hopes of handing down their names to posterity. When once completed, the Bengalees take no kind of care of them, and very frequently, after the lapse of a few years, they become choked with aquatic plants, rank vegetation, and low jungle, which spring up in an incredibly short time. They appear very favorable to the rapid growth of tree and thorn jungle, and frequently become the resort of the wild boar and tigers. The Bengalee never re-digs an old tank, no *éclat* attaches to his doing so, he prefers to dig a new one. Some restriction has very wisely been put upon this indiscriminate digging of tanks on the Government lands, as much of the sickness, so prevalent in this District, is attributable to the noxious and noisome vapours which rise from the rank and putrid vegetation nourished on the surface and the sides of these tanks, particularly so in the southern pergunnahs.

In low and swampy localities the ryots not unfrequently resort to the expedient of digging a tank, for the purpose of obtaining the excavated mould, with which to make a dry and elevated site for their habitations.

Marshes or Bheels.

This District abounds in pestiferous marshes of all sizes. During the rains most of the rivers overflow their banks, when the country becomes one vast Bheel. During the dry season the greater number of she Bheels dry up; the evaporation which takes place in March and April causes great sickness. The dry Bheels afford good pasturage for cattle, grass for thatching houses, and produce

valuable crops of the early rice called "bora dhan." They also afford shelter to wild pigs, buffaloes, and tigers, and are the resort of wild fowl and other web-footed birds, besides herons, storks, paddy birds, water rail, and many other descriptions of waders and aquatic birds.

Roads.

This District is not famous for good roads. The principal thoroughfare is the Darjeeling high road, which traverses the entire District from North to South, and connects the Sikkim Himalaya Mountains with the great Gangetic Valley. This line of road has been well chosen. From the Ganges to Kantnuggur on the Pooranababa (or Dhapa), a distance of 100 miles, there is no nullah of any importance. It is a raised earthen road, kept in good repair, and is practicable at all seasons for wheeled carriage, except the worst part of the rains. The small water-courses are bridged over. This used to be the road taken by dâk travellers proceeding from Calcutta to Darjeeling; but since the opening of the Railway to Rajmehal and Monghyr, it is nearly deserted for the more direct road *vid* Carragola Ghât and Purneah high road. There are also three branch roads leading from Dinajepore to Maldah, Rungpore, and Bograh, which are kept in repair by the Ferry Fund, and are average fair-weather roads. The latter, which is essentially a Dinagepore road, is only just completed, and the community are mainly indebted to the untiring exertions of Mr. G. R. Payter for its completion. It promises to become of great utility in opening up the communication with Bograh. The northern half of the Division abounds in numerous moderately goodbye-roads, but the total absence in some parts of the southern pergunnahs of any thing resembling a road or even a foot-path is very striking. The partition ridges of earth raised between the rice fields are often the only means of communicating with the neighbouring villages. In these parts carts are unknown, and the only means of transporting baggage across country is on elephants; and this is rendered difficult from the numerous bheels, water-cuts, rivers, and ditches, which are everywhere encountered.

Where water communication is so abundant during the rains, little inconvenience is experienced by the inhabitants from the absence of roads. The remains of a high road from Maldah to Ghoraghât, said to have been made many years ago by Baum Rajah, and called "Jungal," can still be traced in many places, but is overgrown with jungle, totally obliterated in some places, and in total disuse. In several parts of the District, particularly in the North, the level nature of the country admits of fine-weather cart roads being extemporised by merely cutting away the raised divisions of earth between the paddy fields, by which grain is conveyed to the granaries on the rivers.

There is another road leading from Dinagepore *vid* Hurreepoor to Kishengunge, in Purneah, which is not kept in good repair; another leads from the latter place *vid* Raigunge to Maldah, which traverses the western portion of the District. In the North of the District all the Thannahs are connected by moderately good fair-weather roads.

Tenure of land.

Lord Cornwallis' perpetual settlement obtains in this as in other Districts of Bengal. The tenure of land by zemindars is perpetual, on condition of payment of a fixed annual rent into the Imperial Treasury. In default of payment, the land is put up to public auction, and sold to the highest bidder. Landholders sub-rent their estates on various conditions, "according to such form as the

contracting parties may deem most convenient, and most conducive to their respective nterests."

The assessment in Dinagepore is considered high, but all pergunnahs are not equally assessed; that of Pergunnah Gillahbaira is notoriously high. Many estates are rack-rented and yield no profit, but being owned by men of small capital engaged in trade, are retained by them in consideration of the position obtained in society by being landholders. The northern pergunnahs are less heavily taxed.

Zemindars often oppress tenants by demanding exorbitant rents, and making other petty and vexatious demands; but the most liberal are the greatest gainers in the end, as the oppressed ryots, having got into debt and being unable to meet their obligations, run away and settle down on neighbouring estates on more liberal terms.

Land varies in value in different parts of the District. The following are the approximate rates per beegah of 87 hauts, which obtain in different localities:—

Reclaimed land	.. 4 annas
Jungle, 1 to 3 years free, after that ..	8 to 12 „
Ordinary Paddy land	.. 12 „
Bora Rice land	6 to 12 „
Best Rice land	1 Rupee to 1-8

Defalcations in rent are not numerous, consequently the sales of estates in default payment of revenue are few. During 1860 there were 4 sales, and the average of the 3 preceding years was 5¾.

Revenue.

The Sudder Jummah or Imperial revenue of the District, exclusive of that portion transferred to Bograh in 1851, is Rupees 19,03,467-4-6, and was obtained as follows, in the Financial year 1859-60:—

Land Revenue	Rs.	17,71,976	3	6
Abkarree	„	48,555	4	0
Stamps	„	82,703	13	0
Fisheries (1860-61)	„	232	0	0
Total	Rs.	19,03,467	4	6

When we consider that the whole of this large country is kept in order by a few Thannah Police, there not being a single soldier of any kind in the entire District, we must allow it is a very important and one of the best paying in all Bengal. The collection of revenue is made by a Collector, and the duties of the Collectorate are less heavy in this than in other Districts paying a less jummah, which may be attributed to the perpetual settlement.

Khas Mehals.

The Government possess several "khas mehals," or escheated estates, in this District, and that portion of Bograh considered in this Report. When estates are put up to public sale, on account of default payment of revenue, or any other cause, and no purchasers are found, the Government

arm them on their own account, and these are known as "khas mehals." The largest of these is the Kurnai estate, in Pergunnah Bhoihara, and pays a considerable rent: a smaller one in the West of the District is farmed by H. Holm, Esq. There are others of considerable extent, farmed by G. R. Payter, Esq., in Pergunnahs Sagoonah, Appole, and Kangore, under the fiscal jurisdiction of Bograh. Mr. Payter ascribes the falling off of these estates, and their finally lapsing to Government, to various causes. He says,—"They all escheated to Government from the inability of the former proprietors to pay the revenue, they were put up to sale, and there being no bidders, were bought in by Government at a nominal valuation. "The population in these pergunnahs is so scanty, probably in consequence of the extreme unhealthiness of that part of the country in which they are situated, that a large portion of their area is uncultivated, and consists, in a great measure, of heavy forest and grass jungles, and swamps too low for cultivation, but scarcely low enough to deserve the name of jheels. The inhabitants are unhealthy, being subject to attacks of fever and ague, especially in the cessation of the rainy season; and so inimical is the climate to health, that strangers are sure to suffer from it. In localities such as these, cultivation is carried on under many difficulties and disadvantages. Jungle grows up with surpassing rapidity in the Paollee soil, pigs and other animals commit great depredation, and necessitate nocturn watching by some members of the family to frighten them off the crops. Sugarcane is particularly liable to destruction by wild pigs, if not watched at night by the owner or his servant perched upon a platform of bamboos made for the purpose. The absence of the men from their homes at night afford great facilities to thieves to rob their property, and intrigues to be successfully carried on with the female members of their families. I keep up several gangs of Shikarees (sportsmen), for the purpose of destroying pigs, or they would multiply so rapidly as to render cultivation impossible. There being much more land than there are laborers to cultivate it, the ryots on the slighest pretext desert from one village to another, but being much attached to the locality where they have been brought up, they seldom go any considerable distance, and almost always return after the absence of a year or two. Their desertions often occur with a view to gain time to pay their debts, or evade them altogether; or, having exhausted their credit with their landlord, are obliged to seek for accommodation elsewhere."

These are some of the depreciating causes. Cultivation, under these circumstances, could only be carried on to great disadvantage, and hence the inability of former native landholders to meet their engagements, and the unwillingness of others to attempt the hazardous undertaking to farm estates presenting so many difficulties, but these have been overcome by European management and enterprise.

When these "khas mehals" were first taken in hand by the late J. W. Payter, Esq., uncle of the present Izaradar, they were then in a deplorable state; but, under the fostering care and liberality of that gentleman and the present landlord, they are now in a comparatively flourishing condition. Roads have been constructed in all directions, bridges made, jungle cut down, and various other improvements effected, by which unhealthy jungle and unproductive lands have been converted into fertile and valuable possessions, and the rent more than doubled. The ryots are now well to do on these estates, contented and happy, and fully appreciate the advantages of having a European gentleman for their zemindar, who interests himself in their welfare, and personally superintends all matters connected with the estates. Amongst

other improvements, the late Mr. J. W. Payter introduced the Otaheite and Bourbon sugar-canes into these estates, which proved a source of pecuniary advantage to the cultvators as long as it lasted; but it has unfortunately become extinct—(see "sugarcane," pages 32 and 40). If the present policy of Government to sell all "khas mehals" be extended to these estates, and they pass into the hands of native zemindars, it will be ruination to the gentleman, under whose able superintendence and liberal policy they owe their resuscitation and present prosperity, as well as to the cultivators themselves, and the estates will surely revert to their former neglected condition, and *will not pay*.

Civil Station.

The Civil Station of Dinagepore is small, covering about one square mile of land; it consists of seven good dwelling-houses, one English school-house, one dispensary, and several mat houses thatched. The public buildings consist of one Judge's Cutcherry, (new), one Collectorate, one Magistrate's Court-house, one Circuit-house, one Post Office, one Treasury Guard-house, one Jail complete, and one Dâk Bungalow. House accommodation for the present European residents is insufficient. These consist of a Judge, a Collector, a Magistrate, two Deputy Magistrates, two Deputy Collectors, a Suddur Ameen, a Medical Officer, a Post Master, a Danish gentleman, a Superintendent of Survey, an Executive Engineer, several Clerks and Subordinates in the Department of Public Works.

The Station is pleasantly situated on the left bank of the Pooranababa River on high flat ground, and is surrounded on three sides by this river and the Gograh Nullah, but is never totally inundated during the rains, and it has a clean and neat appearance. The Government lands occupy an area of 158·3 acres only. It possesses a fine avenue of mangoe and other trees along the Darjeeling high road, which runs through the Station and the City, also a good Race Course; but the roads are kept in bad order. There are no European shops; supplies are brought from Calcutta either by Rail as far as Rajmehal, or by Boat up the Pooranababa River as far as the station, during six months of the year, and to within 14 miles of it during the other six. Handicraftmen and artizans are not procurable; all furniture, &c., comes from Calcutta, except such articles as the ingenuity of the European Jailor is able to manufacture with prison labor.

Dinajepore Native Town.

The principal native town is *Dinagepore,* which gives the name to this District. It is contiguous with the Civil Sudder Station, but the town and station are quite distinct. The site of the modern town is the village of Paharpoor, and covers 1,320 acres of ground, or a little more than two square miles, and possesses a population of about 40,000 souls. The Mahomedan bears a proportion to the whole population of about two-thirds, one-third being Hindoos; that is 25,000 are Mahomedans, and 15,000 Hindoos. There is nothing remarkable about the town, or any notable antiquities. There are about 266 houses of burnt brick and mortar, and 8,000 others, some of which are made of sun, dried bricks, or mud walls, but the majority are mere hovels, constructed of grass hurdles, and thatched. There is nothing to denote its being a wealthy or thriving town; it has a squalid, dirty appearance, and wanting in animation and good roads. It suffers annually from periodical fires.

The Rajah of Dinagepore lives in his Rajbarree in the old town, about two miles to the eastward of the present town, which is on the banks of the Pooranababa. The Rajah is a

wealthy zemindar, the greater portion of Pergunnah Bejoynuggur belongs to him. His income from landed property may be 1,50,000 Rupees.

The trade carried on in the town is very limited. The exports may be briefly summed up in rice, rice-bags, sugar, tobacco, ginger, and turmeric; and the principal imports are salt, cotton, wool, English cotton piece goods, metal utensils, spices, saltpetre, sulphur, foreign metals, tar, carpenter's tools, implements of husbandry, shells, hardware, paper, &c.

Population.

No census of this District has ever been taken. In a report of the District made by Dr. Buchanan in 1808, which also includes a portion of Maldah, he gives a population of 3,000,000, which is equal to six or seven hundred souls per square mile; this is vastly in excess of the population at the present day, and doubtless was so in 1808. The above is much in excess of the densely populated District of Moorshedabad, which has 441½ souls to the square mile, whereas Dinagepore is thinly populated. By taking the "Khana Shoomaree," or the Civil Superintendent's statistics as a guide, and assuming each family or "Basa" to contain *six* souls, which is rather a high average, and by taking the average number of inhabitants in 500 villages in different parts of the District, there being altogether 9,425, we obtain a population of 1,042,832 souls in the tract of country comprised within the *Dinagepore Survey*, containing an area of 4,586 square miles, which gives about 227 souls to the square mile.

Dinagepore is essentially a rural District, there are very few of the inhabitants who are not engaged in the cultivation of the soil. They are a weak, timid, and indolent race of people, very fond of home and ease, their physical inferiority is probably attributable to the relaxing and debilitating nature of the climate, their abstinence from animal, and habitual use of farinaceous and vegetable food, great indolence and insufficient bodily exercise and early marriages. But the climate, no doubt, is the primary cause. They have a great repugnance to go far from home, more especially to remain away from it at night. They seldom venture beyond the limits of their own or neighbouring villages, or the nearest market place or hât. If a man ventures a few miles beyond, on his return home he speaks of the "foreign land" he has visited. On the approach of Europeans, they hurriedly conceal themselves in their villages, thereby giving them the appearance of being deserted; the men in particular do so, and whilst they themselves retreat into a place of safety, they cede to their wives the dreaded duty of having to reply to the interrogatories of European strangers. I have known an able bodied man, when required to show the way from his own to the adjoining village, call loudly upon his aged mother to accompany and protect him. None enter the army, or quit their country for service elsewhere. They are very averse to improvements, or the introduction of any novelty. When a new road is made to pass near their villages, they abandon them, and remove to some distance off, in order to avoid the importunities of strangers. The operations of this survey were considerably retarded by the repugnance on the part of the head men of villages, and ryots, to attend and point out the boundaries to the native surveyors. Their dilatoriness and unwillingness in this respect proved a fruitful source of annoyance and delay.

The social condition of the agricultural classes has greatly improved of late years by the enhanced value of rice and all other agricultural produce. The ryots are the principal

gainers by this unprecedented rise in the price of grain, by which, in many instances, their profits are more than doubled. The zemindars, the only prosperous section of the community, are also great gainers on account of waste lands and jungles, to a great extent, being brought under cultivation, and the ryots, being in more prosperous circumstances, have increased facility in paying up their rents. Mutations and desertions of ryots are less frequent: in a word, the prospects of all have improved, but still the ryots have no pretension to wealth or affluence. Although not rich, the ryots are more independent, and in easier circumstances than the peasantry of most other nations; and, although often oppressed by the zemindars, who enrich themselves at the expense of the ryots, they still have sufficient to support themselves and families. Few experience the pangs of hunger, as our own countrymen do in times of distress, or during a severe winter. They may wholly abstain from labour for weeks, or even months together, and still manage to feed and clothe themselves and families. Their wants are few, and easily supplied; rice, dall, salt, oil, and tobacco supply them all. They suffer somewhat from cold at night in December, January, and February, but at other seasons of the year they require scarcely any clothing at all.

Like Bengalees in general, those of this District seldom speak the truth, from the earliest youth they become habitual *liars*. When they do speak the truth, it is either from accident, or because it suits their purpose to do so, and not from any sense of shame at speaking an untruth. The national characteristics of the Bengalee, their self-conceit, dishonesty, mendacity, love of litigation, mutual distrust, readiness to oppress, duplicity, and cunning, are only too well known, and my experience amongst the peasantry of Dinagepore, during three years, only tends to strengthen me in the opinion that their character is not overdrawn. A countryman of their own, an old grey headed zemindar, told me his countrymen "seldom speak the truth, and in Courts of Law NEVER;" in fact, forensic morality amongst Bengalees is a myth, and they attach no value, and assign no prominent place to either truth, honor, or virtue. But the Bengalee ryot of Dinagepore is not destitute of all good qualities; he is religious, humble, contented, enduring, temperate, uniformly polite, liberal amongst relatives, possesses attachment to kindred, and love of children, whether his own, or belonging to others. Social and domestic morality amongst them is very low, the men are indifferent husbands, and a large number of the women are unfaithful wives. Where religion teaches that sensual pleasures, so far from being criminal, are praiseworthy, rectitude of conduct is little esteemed.

On the early marriages of their daughters, the zemindars spend exorbitant sums of money, and often run themselves irretrievably into debt.

Early Marriages.

The very early age at which the youth of this District are given in marriage, the lads at 17, and the maidens at 14, is productive of both good and evil. Much social evil is, no doubt, prevented, and the propagation of the District is kept within bounds; but the offspring of such precocious marriages attains a pigmy growth.

Habitations.

The habitations are for the most part built of bamboo and grass, the roofs of which have that "hog back" shape, so peculiar to Bengal—high in the centre, and low at the gables, forming the segment or a circle. A few wealthy zemindars possess substantial residences and offices, but only a

very few. Each family, or *basa*, has generally four or five huts, each of which is set apart for its particular purpose.

Labourers.

Although the country is well populated, labourers and coolies are procurable with difficulty. The population, for purposes of cultivation, is more than ample, but, through the great apathy and indolence of the inhabitants, large and valuable tracts of land are allowed to remain waste. Even in the Civil Station, except with the assistance of the Civil Authorities, it is scarcely possible to procure any kind of workman, a cooly, or a cart: and when procured, the former do only half a day's work, and the latter carry only half an ordinary load. They are averse to service of any kind.

The following comparative Table between the prices of necessaries and labour of the present day, and 20 years ago, may be interesting:—

Names of Articles.	Prices in 1840.	Prices in 1860.
Rice, Ordinary	From 70 seers to 2 maunds per rupee.	35 to 40 seers per rupee.
Paddy	6½ maunds per rupee.	2 maunds 30 seers do.
Dal, Mausserree	1½ do. do.	16 seers do.
Do., Rhuhur	„ do. do.	„ do. do.
Do., Kussarree	„ do. do.	„ do. do.
Salt	12 or 13 seers do.	8 do. do.
Oil, Mustard	8 or 10 seers do.	5½ do. do.
Sugar (at Dumdumma) ..	6 Rs. per maund.	14 do. do.
Tobacco Leaf	(Not ascertained.)	2½ to 3 annas a seer.
Fowls	8 or 10 per rupee.	3 or 4 do.
Do., small	16 do.	8 do.
Eggs	120 do.	64 do.
Grass	1,600 bundles do.	600 bundles do.
Laborer per mensem ..	2-8 to 3 Rs. per mensem.	4-8 to 5 Rs., procurable with difficulty.
Ploughman {with food and clothing}	10 or 12 Rs. per annum.	18 to 20 Rs. per annum.
Bullock, small, young, and strong ..	7 or 8 Rs. each.	16 to 20 Rs. each.
Cow, giving milk ..	7 or 8 Rs. each.	Not procurable.
Goat, small, male ..	12 annas.	Rs. 2 to 2-8, with difficulty procurable.

Crimes and Punishments.

The following Tables, containing statistics of Crimes and Punishments, will give some insight into the moral condition of the people. Although murder is common, and the escape of the murderer more probable than his punishment, and dacoity not unfrequent, and although the inhabitants are quarrelsome, litigious, and disputatious, the population generally are disposed to be *peaceable subjects*.

A.

Statement of First Class Offences against the person, in District Dinagepore, during the year 1860.

	DETAIL OF OFFENCES.	1860.		Average of five preceding years.	
		Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.
1	Murder	6	...	9	...
2	Wounding with intent to kill	1	...	...	...
3	Suspicion of murder	...	...	...	...
4	Attempt to commit murder	...	...	...	...
5	Homicide	5	...	6	...
6	Affray with homicide	...	...	...	...
7	Assault with wounding	6	...	5	...
8	Attempt to assault and wound	...	...	...	...
9	Suttee	...	...	...	...
10	Suttee, aiding and abetting	...	...	...	...
11	Rape	1	...	2	...
12	Attempt at rape	...	...	..	...
13	Child stealing	...	...	...	...
14	Do. for the sake of ornaments	...	...	...	...
15	Do. for the purpose of selling into slavery	...	...	...	...
16	Poisoning	...	...	...	...
17	Sitting Dharna	...	...	...	...
18	Abortion, &c.	...	...	...	...
19	Importation of slaves	...	...	...	...
20	Sale of married women	...	...	...	...
21	Illegal arrest	...	...	...	...
22	False imprisonment	20	...	6	...
23	Torture	...	...	...	...
24	Adultery	...	...	...	...
25	Sodomy	1	...	...	...
26	Riot and assault	...	...	...	...
27	Abduction	52	...	9	...
28	Deserting new born infants	...	..	...	...
29	Affray	4	...	1	...
30	Resistance of process	6	...	3	...
31	Making away with a person	4	...	...	...
32	Oppression	108	...	30	..
33	Petty assault	502	...	454	...
34	Accusation of kidnapping	...	...	...	..
35	Exposure of infants	...	...	...	...

(Signed) H. SIMSON,
Magistrate.

B.

1860.

Condensed Statement of Offences in District Dinagepore.

Area, 4,580 square miles. | Population, 1,000,000.

	CRIME.	1860.		Average of five preceding years.		Increase.		Decrease.	
		Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.
1	Offences against the person ...	716	0	525	0	191	0	0	0
2	Do. property with violence	21	0	14	0	7	0	0	0
3	Do. do. without do. ...	1,894	0	1,598	0	296	0	0	0
4	Malicious offences against property	12	0	6	0	6	0	0.	0
5	Forgery and offences against do.	2	0	8	0	0	0	6	0
6	Miscellaneous offences ...	380	0	230	0	150	0	0	0

(Signed) H. SIMSON,

Magistrate.

C.

Year.	Average number of Prisoners during the last three years.			How many committed for murder or manslaughter.	How many for dacoity.	How many for life.	How many for 14 years.	How many for 7 years.	How many Female Prisoners.	How many died.	How many bodies brought for *post mortem* examination.
	Of this District.	Of other Districts.	Total.								
1858	557	234	791	13	25	...	2	25	6	112	19
1859	487	255	742	3	48	1	1	15	8	117	39
1860	293	163	457	17	35	2	2	19	7	93	37

Trades and Professions.

The principal trades and professions are as follows :—

Carpenters.
Smiths.
Silversmiths.
Tailors.
Masons.
Wholesale Grain Dealers.
Retail Ditto.
Tobacconists.
Spice Vendors.
Wood Ditto.
Book Binders.
Hawkers.
Weavers.
Mat and Basket-makers.
Money Changers.
Solah Hat makers.
Barbers.
Fishermen.
Water Carriers.
Boatmen.
Cartmen.
Workers in Cane.
Plough-makers.
Amlah of Judicial and Revenue Courts.
Shell Ornament makers.
Lac Ditto Ditto.
Delf-men.
Toy and Idol-makers.
Boat-builders.
Rice Bag-makers.
Shoe-makers.
Cart-makers.
Palkee Ditto.
Thatchers.
Watchmen.
Burkundaz or Policemen.
Chuprassees.
Elephant Drivers.
" Fodder Cutters.
Cowherds.
Swineherds.
Horse-keepers.
Grass-cutters.
Sweepers.
Washermen.
Labourers.
Clerks.
Lawyers.
Pleaders.
Professional Surveyors.
Ameens.
Draftsmen.
Private Servants.

Imports.

The imports are trifling, the principal of which being,—

European Piece Goods.
" Made Twists.
" Paints.
" Beads.
" Corals.
" Imitation Ditto.
" Cutlery.
" Carpenter's Tools.
" Husbandry Implements.
" Delf.
" Sulphur.
" Iron.
" Steel.
" Tar.
" Hardware.
Cotton wool from Upper India and the Morung.
Shells for ornaments from the Maldive Islands ("*Sanka*" Beng.)
Saul and Sissoo timber from Morung.
Wax from Morung.
Black Pepper, Cocoanuts, Betelnuts. } From Dacca.
Salt.
Spices.
Sandal-wood.
Iron—Beerbhoom.
Looking Glasses—Moorshedabad.
Umbrellas from Calcutta, (in general use.)
Brass, Copper, and Kancha metal utensils.
Saltpetre.

Large quantities of European piece goods pass through the District into Rungpore, which eventually find their way into Bhootan, or are sold in that District.

Exports.

Rice is exported largely from every part of the Dinagepore District. During the rains when the rivers are swollen, and admit of boats of all sizes ascending from the Ganges to the numerous golahs, or granaries situated in the most convenient spots, along the banks of the rivers, for making shipments, large quantities are then conveyed by these minor arteries of commerce to the great Ganges, whence the greater portion finds its way to the Calcutta and Chandernagore markets.

The value of this article of export, which is the principal source of the prosperity of this District, I estimate to be, by a rough calculation, equal to 6½ millions of rupees, thus—

The area of the District, in round numbers, is 4,590 square miles. Assuming one half of the whole District to be paddy cultivation, and each beegah of land to produce 3 maunds of rice (a very low estimate), and one-half of the entire produce to be retained for local consumption, then we have as follows :—

4,590 square miles ÷ 2 = 2,295 square miles	=	14,68,800	acres
		3	
3 Beegahs to one acre	=	44,06,400	beegahs
		3	
Each beegah produces 3 maunds	=	13,219,200	maunds
Half retained for consumption		6,609,600	
Total exported	=	6,609,600	maunds.

Then, assuming the value of the 6,609,600 maunds of rice exported to be one rupee per maund, the value of the quantity exported is shewn to be upwards of six and a half millions of rupees annually.

The principal purchasers are Mahajuns of Lower Bengal, who have their agents in all the principal grain marts, who make money advances to the cultivators, and although they monopolize the trade to a certain extent, there is no want of competition amongst the agents of the different firms.

Sugar.

Next in importance to rice is the export of sugar, and *ghoor*, or unrefined sugar in cakes. In former years the cultivation of the sugarcane in the southern portion of the District was carried on to a much greater extent than it is at present, and was more largely exported. Dumdumma, on the Juboona River, was the principal mart for it, and is so still. Various reasons are assigned for the falling off in this article of trade; amongst the foremost is the deterioration in the quality of the cane, supposed to have been caused by the impoverishment

of the land since the waters of the Teesta left this part of the country. For Mr. G. R. Payter's interesting account of the introduction and decay of the Bourbon and Otaheitean canes (see page 40). The sugar is never exported by the growers, but is bought up by the agents of Calcutta merchants for that market; but, judging from its extreme dearness, 14 Rs. a maund, it is probable that very little ever reaches Calcutta, but is sold at the intermediate markets. The agents ascend the rivers in the rains, and return with the produce.

Rice Bags.

Pât, or sack-cloth, is another important export, not so much from Dinagepore as from the Rungpore District. The jute, or pât, is sow nin April or May, and reaped in August and September. The cultivators are confined to the most northern pergunnahs, and those bordering on Rungpore; it is cultivated by all castes, and is manufactured into paper, gunny, rice bags, bed coverings for the poor, ropes, cordage, string, and "mekley," a cloth used as wearing apparel. Rice bags are largely exported from Rungpore, and pass through this District *en route* to Calcutta, where large numbers are used, and others exported to England and America. The cultivation of jute in Rungpore and Dinagepore might be largely extended.

The other few articles exported are—

Tillee and Surcha Oil.	Capsicums.
Ganjah.	Onions.
Turmeric.	Garlic.
Ginger.	Tobacco, (see page 45).

Indigo was formerly manufactured and exported to some extent, but the numerous ruins of Indigo Factories to be met with in all the southern parts of the District, and along the Kurotcah River, bear witness to the steady decline in the cultivation of this once thriving trade in Bengal. Many of these Factories were worked by European agency and have been relinquished in consequence of their not yielding profitable returns. Not a single beegah of Indigo is sown in this District at the present day.

Manufactures.

The number of articles manufactured in Dinagepore is very small indeed; the following comprises the greater part of them, namely:—

Bamboos.—Matting, roofing of houses, boats, checks, fish baskets, baskets for storing grain, petarahs, jhamps, tent poles, masts, bird-cages, agricultural implements, walking sticks, bhangees, morahs, chairs, &c.

Brass.—Trays, cooking-pots, water-vessels, lotahs, pândâns, hookahs, ornaments, &c.

Cotton.—Cotton pieces, elephant and howdah ropes, string and rope.

Gold and Silver.—Women's ornaments, nose and ear-rings, rings and bracelets, hookahs, and mouth pieces.

Iron.—Sugar boilers, phowrahs, koorpahs, pickaxes, axes, knives, shoemakers' tools, ploughshares, betelnut crackers, hinges, nails, clamps, chains, padlocks, hog spears, tripods, &c.

Jute or Pât.—Cordage, ropes, nets, string for roofing houses, sack-cloth, gunnies, paper, bed coverings, clothing for the poor, called "mekley."

Lac.—Ornaments worn only by Mussulmans.

Leather.—Shoes, koopahs for containing oil.

Pottery.—Surahees and gurrahs for water, nands, handees, oil burners, ornamental trellis work, chillums, idols, native offerings, toys, bricks, rings for forming wells, &c.

Shells.—Ornaments worn only by Hindoos.

Sola.—Gentlemen's sola hats, fishermen's floats, stuffing for elephants' pads, bottle covers, native offerings, bridal ornaments, bottoms of insect boxes, &c.

Wood.—Cart wheels, boats, ploughs, trunks, palankeens, bedsteads, chests, boxes, platforms, idols, doors and windows, tables, stools, spinning wheels, churagh stands, &c.

In the Government Jail at Dinagepore the following articles are manufactured :—Twine, ropes, pots, shell lime, soorkee, bricks, tiles, chairs of bamboo, morahs, baskets, paper, oil, gunny, native dress pieces, silk cloths, silk handkerchiefs, towels of sizes, dusters, cotton sutringees, or durrees, tailoring, blacksmithing, carpentering, tents, and pâls. English and country vegetables are grown in the Jail garden for sale.

AGRICULTURE.

As already remarked, the District of Dinagepore is essentially an agricultural one.

Soil.—The soil is alluvial and sandy, in color it is of a light grey, and when broken and exposed to the sun, becomes almost white; it is divided into three kinds, the Kheer, Poollee, and Red clay; the latter exists in small quantities only, and is principally found along the banks of the Kurotea River. The Kheer comprises the flat rice lands, is hard and friable, is the most extensive, and the most valuable, and although it produces but one crop annually, and that always the Amun rice, it is the most sought after, and realizes the highest rent; the rent being from one rupee to one rupee eight annas per beegah.

Kheer Land.

The Poollee comprises the low and less valuable land, the soil of which is more sandy and less hard. It is usually covered with more forest and jungle than the Kheer land; it produces two or more crops annually, and is worth from eight to twelve annas a beegah. The Poollee being composed, in a great measure, of sand, is capable of receiving and retaining moisture more easily than the

Poollee Land.

other soils, and is consequently brought earlier under cultivation than the Kheer, which cannot be ploughed until saturated with rain, and which is generally covered with a foot or more of water before the ploughing takes place. In the North of the District, where the Poollee is a very free soil, the iron tip to the plough is dispensed with. The edges of the perennially wet and the beds of the dried-up bheels, also the beds of half silted up rivers, are used for the cultivation of an early rice called "Bora Dhan;" the low lands rent at a small rate, from six to eight annas per beegah, on account of the uncertainty of the crop, which is often destroyed by early inundations. This description of rice is sown broadcast in beds in February, afterwards transplanted and irrigated, and is reaped in August and September.

"Bora Dhan."

Another kind of rice, called "Bhoona Dhan," is sown broadcast in March and April in the low lands, on the edges of jheels, and is less liable to destruction from inundation, as it attains to a taller growth.

"Bhoona Dhan."

It takes longer in coming to maturity, and is cut in December, simultaneously with the "Amun," which is the great staple of the District.

"Amun" rice.

Zemindars generally allow jungle land to be held rent-free for three years, and afterwards obtain from four annas to twelve annas per beegah for it. Newly cleared lands of this kind yield excellent crops of oil seeds, pulses, &c., for the first three years, but after that become exhausted, and are of little value. Newly reclaimed lands, formerly under cultivation, fetch from four annas to a rupee per beegah.

The *Poollee* land is capable of producing most things. The following are raised on it in Dinagepore:—

Surcha, Tecsee, Tillee,	These and other oil seeds abundantly.
Ganjah	*Cannabis Sativa*, or common hemp, from which bhang is made.
Koonkra	*Urtus Indica*, cultivated in small quantities by fishermen; only is very dear, costs 30 or 40 Rupees per maund.
Jute, Pát	Cultivated sparingly, and by all castes.
Sun	This fibre is used mostly for fishing nets.
Potatoes	Largely cultivated, produce very small; the soil is unfavorable.
Gram	Very sparingly cultivated, sells for 12 seers the rupee.

Kussarree Dal	*Lathirus Satirus*, the frequent use of which is said to produce paralysis in men and horses.
Ruhur Dal, Onions, Garlic,	Abundantly.
Wheat, Barley, Oats,	Cereals do not thrive, and are very little cultivated. Oats are produced in sufficient quantity for gentlemen's horses only.
Cucumbers, Melons, Mulberry,	
Ginger, Turmeric or Huldee,	Largely grown in two or three Pergunnahs, and mostly exported.
Red Pepper, Castor oil, "Ouse" Rice, Pulses, &c., &c.	
Sugarcane, Cotton, Pawn, Tobacco,	See following remarks.

Sugarcane.

In former years the cultivation of the sugarcane was carried to a much greater extent than it is now in Dinagepore. Various reasons are assigned for its decline. Amongst others, it is supposed, the land has become less favourable to its growth, since the waters of the old Teesta River have left this part of the country; however this may be, the deterioration of the cane is unquestionable. The present Izaradar of the principal Government Khas Mehals in this District, G. R. Payter, Esq., has very kindly furnished me with the following account of the introduction of the Otaheitean and Bourbon canes into the southern portion of the District, and their subsequent decay:—"My uncle, "the late Mr. J. W. Payter, introduced the Otaheitean and Bourbon varieties of cane into "the Sagoonah estates about the year 1840. He obtained the greater part of the supply "from the Agricultural Society's Gardens in Calcutta, and, after increasing the quantity by "propagating in nurseries, he ultimately distributed it amongst the ryots of the khas me-"hals, whence it became disseminated all over the country. At first, the people were un-"willing to accept it on account of its novelty, assigning various reasons for rejecting it; some "of the wisest, however, accepted, and when its superiority in yield and quality became known, "it was eagerly sought after. The yield per beegah was fully double that of the indigenous "plant, and the "goor" made from it so much superior in quality as to command an enhanced "price in the market. In short, those who cultivated it in any quantity became compara-"tively rich in consequence. The species introduced, consisted of several varieties of the "white and purple Bourbon cane; but in the course of a few years it all became of a uni-"form purple color, caused, I suppose, by some peculiarity of soil. In the season 1857-58, "the cane manifested symptoms of decline, and ultimately all rotted in the fields, emitting a "most offensive smell; and since 1858 it has entirely disappeared, so that at the present time

"(1861) not a single cane is to be found, and the ryots have reverted to the cultivation of "the native cane, which, though of a fair kind, is not to be compared to the Bourbon. The "failure has been the source of sincere regret, and severe pecuniary loss to the cultivators.

"I am unable to suggest any reason for its decay, which, in this District and Rungpore, "has become complete. In the latter District, the Bourbon cane was also much grown. The "disease first showed itself in Rungpore two or three years previous to its appearance in Dinage-"pore; in fact, the progress of the disease was from North to South, the cane in Pergunnah "Gillahbarree dying off the year previous to the disease, manifesting itself in Sagoonah, "which is 15 or 20 miles further South. It may have been worn out by high cultivation, or "the soil and climate combined may have caused it to deteriorate and decay."

The land selected for the cultivation of the sugarcane is always raised above the level of inundation, either by nature, or by excavating ditches all round it, and using the excavated earth for this purpose. The same sites are generally selected again after a year or two of fallow, when the ditches are re-dug, and the sediment taken from them used for manure. The cane is planted in straight furrows, the tops being cut into small pieces, a few inches in length, and laid horizontally in the ground 5 or 6 inches apart. It is planted in April, and grows rapidly during the rains, attaining the height of 8 or 10 feet by January, and is cut in February and March. The juice is extracted in a circular mill made by the village carpenter, which acts on the principle of a pestle and mortar. One mill is often worked by several different parties, who may have cultivated the cane in the same or adjoining villages, and who club together, share the expenses, and assist with men and bullocks in the operations of pressing the cane, and boiling the juice, in proportion to the quantity of cane grown by each party.

The cost of a mill complete, including sheds for cutting up the cane and boiling the juice in earthen pots, 7 or 8 Rupees for the hire of an iron boiler, and one Rupee paid to the zemindar for the rent of the land called "Jhulkur," is from 25 to 30 Rupees. The cultivation is remunerative.

Cotton.

The cultivation of cotton in Dinagepore is almost extinct. In former years it was grown to some extent, when the Government had an Agency at Dum-Dumma, in Pergunnah Khangore, for the purchase of cotton piece goods. Its cultivation might be enlarged, but it can never become a cotton producing country, from the nature of the soil.

Pawn.

The cultivation of pawn within this district is a little in excess of local wants, the surplus is principally sold in the town of Dinagepore; it is consumed by both sexes of all classes of natives; it is mostly cultivated by a caste of Hindoos called "Baroee," and is confined to certain localities, the soil of which is most favorable to its growth.

The average size of a pawnbarree, or Baoruj, is about 18 cottahs, or little less than a beegah; but the dimensions vary considerably. A Baoruj, generally speaking, consists of an oblong enclosure made of bamboo frame work, "Ekur" reeds, and grass, covered over with a roofing made of the same materials, supported on upright

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bamboos, high enough to admit a man standing. The plants are neatly arranged in parallel rows, about 2 feet apart, and are made to trail over an upright frame work of split bamboos and reeds. The roof is necessary to protect the plants from the sun's rays. The soil best adapted to the growth of the pawn is of a stiff yellow kind. The ground requires to be manured annually with the refuse of mustard and other oil seeds, previous to planting; the plants which are annually renewed, require to be well watered during the hot months. There are 52 pickings during the year, or one a week; a certain number of rows are picked daily, by which a continual supply of fresh leaves is kept up.

The annual expense of maintaining a pawn Baoruj of the above size, exclusive of the labour performed by the proprietor, and the members of his family, is from 20 to 30 Rupees, besides 12 annas for the land. The average price of 100 leaves in the village hât during the rains is one anna, and during other seasons from 2 to 4 annas. The cultivation of pawn is considered a remunerative employment, and the same party is often the proprietor or lessee of several gardens.

Tobacco.

Tobacco is pretty extensively grown all over the District, but more so in the Northern parts. In the adjoining District of Rungpore it forms an extensive article of export. Very little is exported from Dinagepore, but the local supply is equal to the demand. The expense of planting a beegah is about 5 Rupees or 5-8. The produce of an average crop is about 5 maunds of leaf, and the value of a maund of dry leaf is from 4 to 7 Rupees. It is retailed in all the village hâts for about 2½ or 3 annas per seer. It is mostly grown in small patches of rich or highly manured land on the low banks of rivers, or in the immediate vicinity of the village. It is sown in July, transplanted in November, and picked in April. It is considered a remunerative crop.

Agricultural instruments.

All the agricultural instruments are of the most primitive description, and those which are in general use throughout Bengal, and do not require describing here. The plough is a solid piece of wood, sometimes tipped with a small piece of iron, and fixed to a pole or bamboo, to which are yoked a couple of small lean oxen. No kind of harness is necessary to yoke them to the plough, which is very light, and generally left on the ground after the day's work; but if required to be removed, it is shouldered by the ploughman, who carries it away. In the North of the District, where the soil is light and free, the iron tip is dispensed with. With such implements it is no wonder ploughing is executed in a most slovenly manner, and is little better than a superficial scraping of the soil.

Domestic animals, poultry, &c.

Horses.

There are very few horses, donkeys, or ponies in the District, the climate is not suitable to them. In the Sudder Station constant casualties occur in gentlemen's stables. Buffaloes are neither plentiful nor scarce; other horned cattle are very plentiful, but unusually small and feeble. Whether the cattle was originally of its present diminutive type, is not clear, but it bears the impress of great deterioration, more especially in the southern part of the District. The horns of these pigmy creatures are so ill developed, that they have the least possible resemblance to horns, and consist of an unnatural

Horned Cattle.

looking horny excrescence, thicker at the extremities than at the base, and growing in any direction but the natural one. Pasturage is plentiful, but deficient in nourishment; milk is everywhere very scarce; the villagers complain that the cows give less milk now than formerly; the consequence is, the calves are deprived of the little nourishment their mothers at the best could supply, and thus the apathetic Bengalee ryot looks placidly on at the deterioration of his sickly cattle with a passive indifference, and attempts nothing to improve its breed. Notwithstanding that many thousand herd of cattle have been destroyed during the last few years by a kind of murrain, and the considerable havoc committed amongst them by tigers year after year, they are very abundant. In the North of the District the cattle are stronger, and in the adjoining District of Purneah a very superior breed is obtained. At the village hâts young cows and bullocks fetch from 5 to 20 Rupees, and milk, not watered, 2 annas a seer. A very profitable trade in curds and whey is carried on in the village hâts, so profitable as to render milk almost unattainable.

Goats.

Goats are very plentiful, but, in the South of the District, are exceedingly small, the mothers being no larger than small sized kids. I have purchased pregnant females, about nine inches in height, in the belief that they were kids.

Pariah dogs.

Pariah dogs thrive well, but are less numerous, and less ill favored and mangy than in Upper India, and are more domesticated; but they seldom have a master, and are the common property of the village. Sheep are very scarce, turkeys are unknown, geese, ducks, fowls, and pigeons are plentiful, and moderate in price. Elephants are possessed by mundils and wealthy zemindars, and are not uncommon.

Wild animals.

The following wild animals exist in Dinagepore:—The tiger, leopard, civet cat, tiger cat, pole cat, ordinary wild cat, buffaloe, boar, bara singah, hog deer, jackall, fox, mongoose, alligator, badger, tortoise.

Tigers, leopards, and pigs may be found all over the District, but they are very partial to certain localities. Buffaloes are common, but are confined to the dense jungles and marshes of the South. The Bengalees stand in great dread of them all, but only in two or three places could I hear of tigers being man eaters.* At one village, in Pergunnah Suntosh, the villagers asserted that twenty victims perished annually; but this is probably an exaggeration. In jungly tracts the villagers never remain out late in the evening, or move out early in the morning for fear of wild animals; nor will they willingly enter the jungles, seeing no reason, they say, why they should "give their lives to the tigers and pigs." Tigers mostly infest the dense tangled jungle and grass patches in the Poollee land, and leopards are found everywhere; vast numbers of cows and goats are annually destroyed by them; the buffaloes and pigs commit great havoc amongst the sugarcane and rice cultivation. The villagers evinced

* Since this was written, I hear the tigers have been committing dreadful havoc amongst the inhabitants, January 1863.

a great desire that our parties should destroy the herds of wild buffaloes which do them so much injury; and they would readily come 3 or 4 miles into camp to give notice when a cow had been killed by a tiger, in the hope that we would go and shoot it.

Domes and other low caste Hindoos hunt tigers, leopards, deer, and boars with packs of pariah dogs, and attack them with guns, spears, clubs, and bows and arrows. On coming on the scent of a tiger, the dogs give tongue, but will not approach beyond the bounds of prudence, or follow up a wounded tiger. These curs fearlessly attack the wild boar, and in their encounters with them, exhibit no little sagacity and courage. Many get killed and wounded in these sanguinary and unequal contests. The Domes replenish their packs by stealing dogs from distant villages, whom they keep tied up until they are trained and localized. From constantly feeding on pig's flesh, which is often in a putrid state, these dogs become mangy and die. Some zemindars keep shikarees, for the sole purpose of keeping down the wild pig, which would otherwise overrun the cultivation and drive away the ryots. This course is pursued by Mr. Payter in the Government Khas Mehals in Pergunnah Sagoonah.

Game.

Game is moderately abundant, and very little molested, except by Europeans. Pigs and hog deer, as above stated, are hunted by the low caste Hindoos, but water fowl, snipe, land and water rails, hares, peacocks, black partridge, quail, and plovers, all of which are plentiful, are almost disregarded, and made no use of by the indolent and caste ridden population.

Fish.

Fish is an important article of food in this District. The Bengalee ryot is very partial to fish, and many are the ingenious devices he resorts to for the capture of a few little brats, with which to prepare himself and family a curry. Most of the large rivers and perennial marshes contain large fish of good quality, but elsewhere, in the numerous small rivers, marshes, and tanks, the quality is inferior, and the dimensions small. During the rains small fish are found in every water-course, flooded field, and puddle. Great quantities of these are sold in the village hâts. During the hot weather fish is brought to market in a state verging on putrefaction, the stench of which, which is so offensive to the European, seems strongly to recommend it to the Native consumer. The supply of fish is inexhaustible.

Fisheries.

The Julkur settlements in this District are not yet completed. The amount at present paid into the Treasury on account of fisheries is 232 Rupees, and it is doubtful if any more will be obtained. Most of the large fisheries belong to zemindars. The right of fishing in most of the small rivers and bheels is not reserved.

Reptiles and vermine.

These consist of various kinds of lizards, water and land snakes, including the boa-constrictor, frogs, rats, mice, cockroaches, musquitos, in myriads, whose sting is very irritating, and often attended with festering when the part stung is much rubbed, Bats, musk rats, moles, centipedes, the very destructive white ant, also the red ant, which forms pendent nests from trees, and whose sting is painful, bees, wasps, &c.

Birds.

Birds are very numerous, and many of the species are very beautiful. The following are amongst those most popularly known:—Common wild ducks, shovellers, widgeon, common teal, whistling teal, merganser, brahminee, and common Indian wild goose, cootes, divers, gulls, shear-water, cormorant, large crane, (syrus), stork, green heron, paddy bird, demoiselle, sand piper, sand martin, numerous waders, and web-footed birds of all kinds. Jackdaw, jay, magpie, wood-pecker, kingfisher, water wag tail, hoopae, skylark, green and blue pigeon, dove, starling, crows, ravens, sparrow, kite, vulture, osprey, kestrel, sparrow-hawk, eagle, black partridge, quail of kinds, snipe, leeke, lapwing and golden plover, peacock, and night birds of various kinds. One of the latter is very common, which makes a noise all night long, closely resembling the blow of a woodman's hatchet on the trunk of a dry tree. Ortulans are very abundant when in season.

Calcoptera and Lepedaptera.

In Dinagepore, as in other parts of Bengal, insect life is abundant, and of the same type.

Metals.

No metals or metaliferous minerals of any kind are found in the District, the soil of which is wholly alluvial.

Trees.

There is no scarcity of ordinary trees and tree jungle in Dinagepore, but good timber is scarce. The following are amongst the most common of the trees:—Burgut, peepul, parkur, semul (Bombax Heptaphydum), palm, or tal tree, date palm, betelnut, sirus, bukoin, kudum, jamin, kuchnar, teak, sujwan, bastard sal, (Shorea Robusta) kurzooainee, bughundee, seecoo, goolur, sahora, geeul, goomar, ghumbar, badam, scented babool, bael, julpie, or Bengal olive, the sacred neem, chumpa, &c.; also the following fruit trees:—cocoanut, mangoe, tamarind, byer, custard apple, guava, jack, pomegranate, citron, pumplenose, pupyah, plantains, &c. There is a decided scarcity of good fruit in this District; with the exception of mangoes, jack, and plantains, there is none to speak of. Mangoes are neither very abundant nor scarce, but plantains abound in every village; there is not a hovel that has not its score of trees. The plantain is an article of commerce. The former are not good, and the latter are decidedly bad, being full of hard black seeds. The only good trees of mangoes and plantains are to be found in Mr. Grant's garden at Dinagepore.

Marriage of the burgut and peepul trees.

The *marriage of the burgut and peepul* is a custom which commonly prevails in this District. It is conducted in this wise. A man plants a burgut, attended with a certain ceremony; in due time when the burgut manifests symptoms of having taken firm root, he plants a young peepul tree close by its side, when the two are wedded by the performance of the usual marriage ceremony. In the process of time the burgut encircles the peepul in its close embrace, and thus inseparably united, the two may be seen growing gracefully, and as it were out of one and the same stem, in all parts of the District.

Bastard sal or "Shorea Robusta."

The sal is found principally along the course of the Kuroteah River, in Pergunnahs Ghoraghat, Khastalook, and Surrooppoor, growing in small forest patches, called by the Natives "sal-buns;" there are also outlying patches found in other Pergunnahs. The trees are stunted in growth, tall,

of small girth, and inferior in quality and size to those found in the Nepaul and Sikhim Terrai. The owners of the sal-buns attach little value to them, in consequence of their distance from water carriage, and from there being no local demand for timber.

Bamboos.

This most useful of all wood is fortunately *most abundant*. The Bengal ryot brings it into use in a variety of ways. He thatches his house and boat, and fences his field with it. The sides of his house and upright posts are of bamboo; it enters largely into the construction of his agricultural instruments; he keeps his grain, and catches his fish in baskets made of bamboo; carries his produce to market on a bhangy made of bamboo; his cow is tethered with a bamboo peg, and his mina confined in a bamboo cage. He sleeps on a bamboo mat, he makes his tazeeahs and idols of bamboo frame-work; and cooks his dinner with it; in short, it is an integral part of his existence, and without it he would be almost helpless.

Tal trees.

There is a great dearth of this useful palm in the Dinagepore District; it seems to grow very well, and I could ascertain no special reason for its almost total absence, an absence which detracts from the picturesque appearance of the District as a Province of Bengal.

Meteorology.

The following remarks are the result of personal observation during three field seasons, and what I have gathered from various reliable sources, and not the result of any scientific or accurate instrumental observation.

Climate.

The climate of Dinagepore, on the whole, is much cooler than that of Calcutta, the hot weather does not set in so early, and the nights are always cool and pleasant till the end of April. The climate, however, is very unhealthy, and is justly held in great dislike by strangers, including Bengalees, on account of its insalubrity. When the 2nd Division, Revenue Survey, was ordered from Burdwan into Dinagepore, many of the oldest and best Native Bengalee Surveyors resigned, rather than face the dangers of so dreaded a climate. In the seasons of 1857-58 and 1858-59, this survey was nearly disorganized by sickness. As many as thirteen surveying parties were unfit for work at the same time, and almost all were sick and weakly from the effects of fever, which is the prevailing epidemic. The villagers have a sickly appearance, and many are annually carried off by fever and cholera. Natives are more easily affected by the climate than Europeans, which is probably attributable to the freer mode of living of the latter, which enables them the better to withstand its baneful effects, also to the greater exposure of Natives to the night air.

The unhealthy period of the year for strangers begins about the middle of March, with the hot weather, when they are liable to get fever, diarrhœa, or cholera, which the Natives attribute to the unwholesomeness of the water at this season; and, no doubt, aided by the drying up of the numerous marshes, tens of thousands of tanks, and other stagnant pools of water, full of that rank and putrid matter over which miasma broods triumphantly, and which renders the Morung so deadly about the same period of the year. The dense jungles in the South of the District are an additional cause of sickness, as in the northern part, where jungle,

marshes, and tanks do not exist to the same extent, the climate is more healthy. The sickly season for all parties is in September and October, when very few escape having fever. When the Natives sicken they are attended by their own Doctors or Khoobrajes, in whose skill and medicines they place great confidence.

Seasons.

The year is best divided into three seasons, the hot, the rainy, and the cold. The hot season may be said to commence about the middle of March, and to terminate about the end of May. It is ushered in by the blowing of strong westerly winds, which prevail until the first showers of rain begin to fall in April, or beginning of May. This wind is hot and dry, and causes rapid evaporation of the waters of the marshes and tanks, and when followed by a light easterly wind, as is often the case, produces sickness and fever. It sometimes fills the atmosphere with clouds of dust, and imparts to it a lurid appearance, but it has not always this effect, as the hot westerly winds of Upper India have, neither is it so violent, nor so hot, although the heat at this season is often very great. The nights, during the first two months of this season, are invariably cool and pleasant; occasional showers of rain fall towards the end of April, which reduce the temperature of the atmosphere, and are refreshing. In May, and immediately before the setting in of the rainy season, they become more frequent, and still more refreshing, the weather by this time having become very hot, and the nights hot and oppressive. Strong gales from the north-east and north-west, accompanied by thunder and lightning, occur at the setting in of the rains, which are sometimes very violent.

The hot season.

The rainy season may be said to have fairly set in by the first week in June. Previous to this period the showers have been light, but now the rain falls heavily, and comes from the South and East, and the rice cultivation proceeds; the rivers soon swell, the marshes assume the dimensions of lakes, and the country in general is submerged, and impassable to travellers, except to those proceeding along the high roads, or in boats. The more elevated lands do not long remain submerged, for, as the rivers subside, the waters flow back into their channels and are carried off; but many of the low lands, having no outlets, become vast bheels or marshes, many of which are perennial. The average fall of rain during the last three years has been 80·6 inches. The inundations during the same period have been unusually high and lasting, thereby causing considerable loss to the crops. The heavy rain ceases about the 1st of October, after which date light showers occur, with intervals of clear sunshine, during which time the atmosphere is steamy, very hot, and oppressive, causing a languor and depression of spirits, which is very frequently followed by fever, from which few escape.

The rainy season.

The cold season sets in about the 15th November, by which time the weather has become cool and pleasant. From November to the middle of February, heavy dew falls at night, and heavy mists and fogs occur in the morning; the latter, however, are soon dispelled by the sun's rays. During the above period it is generally sufficiently cold to require a fire and woollen clothing, and the poor ryots, who have neither, suffer from the cold. Light variable winds prevail until the middle of February, when strong westerly winds begin to blow, and again usher in the hot season about the middle of March.

The cold season.

Fairs and markets.

"Nekh Murd" Fair.

Annual fairs are very common throughout Dinagepore, and are mostly held in April, which is the season of the year when the agricultural classes have most leisure; this is likewise the season of the year for celebrating marriages. The principal fair is that held at "Nekh Murd," about 40 miles north-west from Dinagepore. It takes its name from a Mussulman saint who is buried there, and at whose shrine, or "Doorga," it is customary to make offerings. The fair takes place about the 10th or 11th of April (1st of Bysack), and lasts about a week or ten days. It is principally a cattle fair. The number of people who attend this fair fluctuates, from year to year, between 100 and 300,000. The following is a rough estimate of the numbers of horned cattle, elephants, horses, &c., &c., brought to the fair for sale in 1861:—

30,000 oxen.
3,000 ponies of kinds.
5 or 600 horses.
200 elephants of all sizes.
12 camels.
1 rhinoceros.

The oxen come principally from Purneah and the surrounding Districts, and are bought up by agents from Mymensingh, Sylhet, and various other localities. The ponies are mostly Bhootan hill ponies, brought down by the Bhootcahs. The horses all Cabuls and country bred animals from Arrah and that neighbourhood, and even from more distant places. Elephants are brought from the Morung and Assam; the principal purchasers are the rich zemindars of the Dinagepore and neighbouring Districts. Camels are brought down from the North-West, laden with goods; they are very few in number, and are generally sold to Mussulmans, who eat them on occasions of great feasting.

People from all parts of Northern India frequent this fair. Moguls and Affghans bring dried fruits, embroidered saddlery, daggers, swords, looking-glasses, &c. Seikhs may be seen manufacturing combs out of ivory and sandal-wood. The hill tribes bring down blankets, woolen cloths, walnuts, musk, ponies, and yâk tails. The Nepaulese sell Kookries and chiretta leaf. Large quantities of real and imitation coral beads are exposed for sale by the Bankers of Dinagepore; much of the latter is bought by the unsuspecting Bhootcahs, who are now growing wiser. Besides the above, there are English-piece goods, brass pots of all sorts and sizes, hookas, &c., &c. There seems to be a limited supply of grain for sale, not more perhaps than is required for actual consumption on the spot.

The Magistrate of Dinagepore and his assistants attend the fair to keep the peace.

"Gopeenath" Fair.

That next in importance takes place at Gopeenath, just beyond the southern limit of the Dinagepore Survey, in Pergunnah KhetLall, District Bograh. It is held in March, during the Bengalee festival of "Dhole Jatra," and lasts a fortnight. There is an idol at Gopeenath, from which the place derives its name. It is an extensive cloth and cattle fair; brass-ware, spices, drugs, metals, &c., are

largely dealt in, and resident dealers lay in their annual supply here. European cloth pieces to a considerable extent find ready purchasers; lanterns, and Calcutta made umbrellas are also in great demand.

Fairs of minor importance are held at the following places:—Turpinghat on the old Kuroteea River, Putturghatta on the Toolseegunga, Hurreeaputhur on the Jubboona, at Neemtara, near Dinagepore, at Joykistopoor, near Chintamun, all in the South of the District.

These fairs are very useful and popular, and are attended by numerous itinerant hawkers, or "box-wallas," who, proceeding from fair to fair, dispose of their stock of European wares, nic-nacs, &c., procured in Calcutta. Resident vendors of this description of articles frequently go the round of the fairs, and realize good profits.

Hâts.

The village hâts, or periodical markets, are held all over Dinagepore in the principal villages. These also are most useful and numerously attended; *they wholly take the place of shops.* They are held weekly, bi-weekly, or bi-monthly, generally in some open spot apart from the village, under the shade of Banyan or Peepul trees, in the afternoon, or towards evening, according to the season of the year. Purchases on a small scale are very extensively made. Surplus produce and stores, fish, fruit, vegetables, &c., are conveyed to market by the men on Bhangies strung over the shoulder; these are parted with, and market supplies for the week or fortnight laid in by the women, who are the house-keepers and always predominate at these gatherings, and are very noisy. For articles sold at these markets, see page 83.

Weights and Measures. Weights.

The standard or pucca bazar weights are as follows:—

4 Dhans	=	1 Ruttee.	5 Tolahs	=	1 Chittack.
8 Ruttees	=	1 Masha.	16 Chittacks	=	1 Seer.
12 Mashas	=	1 Tolah.	40 Seers	=	1 Maund.

The Tolah is the standard of measure from which all other weights are derived; it weighs 180 Grains Troy Weight. But it must not be supposed that the standard weight is in common use; no kind of uniformity of weight prevails within the District. Petty dealers adopt such weights as seem to please them most; gross frauds are thus practised with impunity, from the difficulty of detection.

Without reference to what the weight of the seer may be, the following measurements are commonly in use:—

16 Chittacks	=	1 Seer.
5 Seers	=	1 Punsarree.
8 Punsarrees	=	1 Maund.

Measures.

For the measurement of rice and other grain, the following are mostly in use :—

4 or 5 Seers	=	1 Dhoon or Basket.
20 Dhoons	=	1 Bees.
16 Bees	=	1 Pootee.

The local weight of a seer in different parts of the District is as follows :—

In the Town of Dinagepore	=	90 to 96 Tolahs.
In the South of the District	=	58 to 60 Do.
In the North Do	=	96 Do.
For sugar it is fixed at	=	68 Do.
„ rice Do	=	60 Do.

Monetary system.

The usual monetary system of Bengal prevails in Dinagepore; accounts are kept in rupees, annas, and pie.

3 pie	=	1 pice.
4 pice	=	1 anna.
16 annas	=	1 rupee.

The usual coin of the realm consisting of rupees; 8, 4, and 2 anna pieces, and copper coins are in circulation. The small shell called "cowrie" is in common currency in every village hât, where transactions generally are of very limited value, and often 3 or 4 cowries only.

4 Cowries	=	1 Gundah.
20 Gundahs	=	1 Pun.
4 Puns	=	1 Anna.

Bank of Bengal Notes are lawful tenders. The Currency Notes have only now been introduced.

Professional survey of the District. 2nd Division.

The survey of the Dinagepore District was commenced in season 1857-58, by the 2nd Division, Revenue Survey, under the superintendence of Captain W. S. Row, Assistant Revenue Surveyor, who surveyed an area of 552½ square miles, situated in the south-west of the District. In the three following seasons, from 1858 to 1861, the 2nd Division, under Captain J. L. Sherwill, Assistant Revenue Surveyor, surveyed the south-eastern and centre portions of the District bordering on Bograh and Rungpore Districts, comprising an area of 2,361 square miles.

1st Division.

The 1st Division under the superintendence of the late Mr. J. J. Pemberton, in season 1859-60, surveyed the most northern Pergunnahs—Salbarree, Deorah, Bargaon, Maldoar, Dehutt, and Noorpoor, having an area of 939 square miles; and during the past season, under the superintendence of Mr. Robert Smart, surveyed the most western portion bordering on the Districts of Purneah and Maldah, yielding an area of 752 square miles, and comprising the Pergunnahs of Khalara, Mahasau, Japurtoil, Beeheenuggur, Soojanuggur, Surohur-Mankore, Dhonjar, Radhabulubpoor, Delwarpoor, Tajpoor, and Behinuggur.

Comparison of work with G. T. S. data.

The correctness of the linear measurements of the two Revenue Surveys engaged in these operations has been proved by comparison with those of the great Trigonometrical Survey of India, the Calcutta Meridional Series of which passes through this District. The comparisons are shewn in the following Table, and exhibit results most gratifying to those engaged in these important operations. The average error in feet per mile, of direct distance, is shewn to be only 3.16 feet, a very small error indeed, when the nature of the operations of a Revenue Survey, and the many local and material impediments it has to contend against, are taken into consideration.

A.

Names of G. T. Stations.		Direct distance from Revenue Survey.	Direct distance from Great Trigonometrical Survey.	Error of Revenue Survey.	Error per Mile.	Remarks.
		Feet.	Feet.			
Chendoria	to Ahtgara ...	50018·7	50012·0	+6·7	0·70	Calcutta Meridional Series.
Munglar	to Do. ...	61444·7	61477·9	—33·2	2·85	
Do.	to Indur Narainpoor ...	61262·7	61265·4	—2·7	0·23	
Do.	to Sankrol ...	53329·5	53359·7	—30·2	2·08	
Indur Narainpoor	to Do. ..	74138·6	74230·8	—92·2	6·55	
Chendoria	to Ramchunderpoor ...	61343·0	61397·3	—54·3	4·67	
Ahtgara	to Do. ...	62933·0	62972·8	—39·8	3·34	
Do.	to Chundol ...	61380·7	61410·6	—29·9	1·79	
Ramchunderpoor	to Do. ...	54892·3	54917·5	—25·2	2·42	
Do.	to Dinagepoor (Mr. Grant's house) ...	36985·3	37014·0	—28·7	4·09	
Chundol	to Do. ...	45141·8	45157·0	—15·2	1·77	
Average where the error is plus ...		...	...	...	+0.70	
Average where the error is minus ...		...	...	...	—3·16	

The latitude and longitude of the above stations, with the heights above sea level, are given below:

B.

Names of Stations.	Latitude.	Longitude.	Height in Feet.	Remarks.
Ahtgara	25° 30′ 13″·6	88° 24′ 28″·8	131	Stations of the Calcutta Meridional Series.
Chendoria	„ 44 28·7	„ 24 43·9	151	
Chundol	„ 31 22·1	„ 34 17·4	117	
Dinagepore, (Mr. Grant's house) ...	„ 36 32·8	„ 40 12·1	...	
Indur Narainpoor	„ 23 16·8	„ 33 34·2	106	
Manglar	„ 26 10·9	„ 22 54·0	114	
Ramchunderpoor	„ 40 24·6	„ 34 58·8	130	
Sankrol	„ 17 26·5	„ 21 42·7	123	

Cost of survey.

The cost of surveying has been greater per square mile, I believe, than any other District of Bengal, being Rupees 45-13-11, but the cost per village, Rupees 22-5-1, is not above the average.—(See Table).

Various circumstances led to the small areas annually accomplished by the 2nd Division, the principal of which was the diminutive size of the villages in the South of the District.

Average size of villages.

The average size for the whole District is 311½ acres, or 0·487 square miles, but those to the North are very much larger; whereas the average size of those in the southern Pergunnahs is only 210 acres, or nearly ⅓ of a square mile. The difficult nature of the country and very great sickness during the field operations of the three first years also much retarded the work. In 1857-58 and 58-59 sickness prevailed to such an extent as almost to disorganize that Establishment.

Demarcations.

The demarcations of this District were mainly conducted by the Civil Superintendent, Mr. W. Waterfield, aided by Mr. J. Browne, Assistant Superintendent, and assisted by two Uncovenanted Deputy Collectors, N. Garstin, Esquire, and W. Davey, Esquire. The "Tâkbust," or preliminary village Maps, prepared under their superintendence, stand the test of the professional survey remarkably well, and reflect great credit upon all parties concerned in their compilation.

Adjustment of fiscal boundaries under consideration.

The estates in this District are so intermixed and dispersed over this and the neighbouring Districts, as to render the preparation of statements of areas of lands belonging to other Districts, intermixed with those of Dinagepore, a matter of considerable difficulty; and as the adjustment of intermixed lands and fiscal boundaries is now under consideration, such statements, if furnished, would be of no value.

The following statistics of each Pergunnah, it is believed, will be found more useful :—

DINAGEPORE DISTRICT.

Cost of Survey, &c.

Area of territory considered in this report	Square miles				4,586
Number of villages do.					9,425
Total cost of professional survey, without contingencies ..	Rs.	1,93,392	2	0	
Cost per square mile	„	42	2	9	
Cost per village	„	20	8	4	
Total cost of professional survey, with contingencies ..	„	2,10,362	15	6	
Cost per square mile	„	45	13	11	
Cost per village	„	22	5	1	

Items of Cost.

European Establishment	Rs.	1,10,437	3	6
Native Do.	„	79,870	9	2
Guards	„	3,084	5	4
	Total Rs.	1,93,392	2	0
Mehalwaree calculations		2,717	4	2
Contingencies		14,253	9	4
Total cost of professional survey, with contingencies..		2,10,362	15	6

Annual revenue of Dinagepore District, Rs. 19,03,467-4-6.
Total cost of survey equal to 11 per cent. of annual revenue for one year.

PERGUNNAH JEHANGEERPOOR.

Portion of M. C. No. 2.

Area 78429·89 acres=122·54 square miles.

No. of villages 274.

No. of inhabitants 30,200.

The greater portion of this pergunnah, lying to the East of the Attrai River, belongs to the Bograh District. The principal Town is Dorala, which possesses a good bazar and granary

on the banks of the Attrai River, and is commonly known as Seebgunge. The country is flat and open; is traversed by the Attrai from North to South; is bounded to the East, South, and West by the District of Rajshahye. There is no road of any consequence, except a fair-weather one, leading from Seebpoor to Dinagepore. There are several large bheels in this pergunnah, and the following villages have periodical markets:—Allipoor, Chandas, Ootturgram, Chuck Dorec, Paharpoor, Sreerampoor, Hosainpoor, Mohcshbathan, and Mahadebpoor; at the latter place there is a Police Chokey, also a Thannah at Putneetullah, and a Moonsiffee at Nogeepoor. The staple produce is rice.

PERGUNNAH FUTTEYJUNGPOOR.

Portion of M. C. No. 6.

Area 60323·67 acres=94·25 square miles.

Villages 403.

Inhabitants 44,500.

The whole of this pergunnah belongs to Bograh. The capital is Baloobhara, on the Jubboona River. It is bounded by Pergunnah Khutta to the south-east, and by District Rajshahye to the south-west. It is traversed by the Jubboona and Toolseegunga Rivers from north to south; the country is low and swampy, bears a jungly appearance, and is covered with numerous tanks, ditches, nullahs, and swamps. The latter are frequented by herds of buffalo, wild pigs, and flocks of wild fowl. Those of note are the "Chubree" and "Hastar" bheels. It is subject to inundation; the villages are very small, and average only ¼ of a mile square; the want of communication between the villages is great. There is a good rein road along the Jubboona, passing through Buddulgachee and one or two others. The northern portion is particularly jungly, and infested by tigers. There are grain marts at Buddulgachee, Baloobhara, and Huzurutpoor on the Jubboona, and there is a Thannah at the former place. The inhabitants are very timid. The staple is rice; sugarcane and gánjah are also extensively cultivated. The latter is the common hemp, or "Cannabis Sativa," from the dried leaves of which the natives extract an intoxicating liquor called "Bhang," which is sold in the Rampore Bauleah, Bograh, and Calcutta markets. The dried flowers, called "Gánjah," are mixed with tobacco and smoked, and form an intoxicating drug. A juice is obtained from the green leaf, called "Subzee," and is used by confectioners in making sweetmeats.

The fish of the Toolseegunga are of a reputed good quality.

PERGUNNAH MOSEEDAH.

Portion of M. C. No. 2.

Area 44492·14 acres=69½ square miles.

Villages 199.

Inhabitants 22,000.

Capital Town, Chunchun Moseedah.

This pergunnah is situated to the north of Jchangeerpoor; the south-west corner abuts on Rajshahye District; it is traversed from north to south by the Attrai River. The country generally is open and flat, the northern portion is more jungly; there are several large bheels, and several fair-weather cart roads connecting the principal villages. The staple is rice, and there are grain marts at Chunchun Moseedah, and Chala Moseedah on the Attrai. The following villages have hâts or markets:—Gopalpoor, Hosainpoor, Seebpoor, Mudreshohur, Chunchun Moseedah, and Chala Moseedah. The villages are very small.

PERGUNNAH POOSTUL.

Portion of M. C. No. 1.

Area 105389·25 acres =164·67 square miles.

Villages 286.

Inhabitants 31,400.

Capital Town, Neetpoor.

This is the most south-western pergunnah of Dinagepore; it is bounded by the Maldah District to the west; it abuts on Pergunnah Chowrah and Rajshahye District to the south-east. The Darjeeling high road traverses it from north to south, and a cart road from Rungpore to Maldah passes through it from east to west. It is an open, rice producing country, covered with large patches of grass, bheels, and jungle on the Maldah boundary. The following villages have periodical markets: Hurreepoor, Poorshah, Dashnuggur, Ghatnuggur, Soponar, Tetoleeah and Nischindeepoor; at the three last-named there are Police Chokeys, and a Thannah at Poorshah on the high road; also a G. T. S. Station at Kishnagur.

PERGUNNAH CHOWRAH.

PORTION OF M. C. No. 1.

Area 18421·24 acres = 28·78 square miles.

Villages 81.

Inhabitants 8,800.

Principal Village, Kusba Chowrah.

This is a small pergunnah in the south-western extremity of the District; it is nearly surrounded by the Rajshahye District, and is in two distinct portions, and a little to the east of the Darjeeling road. It is an open, flat, rice producing country. A cart road leading to Neetpoor traverses the southern portion. There are a great-many tanks. The market villages are Kusbah Chowrah and Borogam.

PERGUNNAH KORDOHO.

M. C. No. 3 & PORTION OF M. C. No. 4.

Area 136731·40 acres = 213·64 square miles.

Villages 395.

Inhabitants 43,400.

Principal Town, Kusba Kordoho.

This pergunnah is partly bounded to the West by the District of Maldah. The country is open, and abounds in rice cultivation. The Darjeeling high road passes through it from North to South; the Attrai River traverses the north-eastern corner. Tanks are very numerous; the villages are very small, and the following have markets:—Bujrah Pookuree, Kusba, Kusbah Kordoho, Budunpoor, Bhabaneepoor, Kakua, and Madhail; Aichora is a grain mart on the Attrai. There is a Dâk Bungalow at Lushkurhaut, and a G. T. S. at Naksadal. Large patches of grass exist towards the Malda boundary, and a large marsh, called Doobah Bheel, in the South, gives rise to a nullah, which falls into the Pooranababah River.

PERGUNNAH KHORAIL.

PORTION OF M. C. No. 4.

Area 12141·01 acres = 18·97 square miles.

Villages 59.

Inhabitants 6,000.

The only villages of any note in this small pergunnah are Khorail and Mullickpoor. The country is open and flat, and produces rice. It is bounded on the North-east corner by the Attrai River; to the South by Pergunnah Suntosh; and to the West by Pergunnah Kordoho. Tanks are very numerous; to the westward is a bheel, called Kuseegong, which contains good drinking water and fish. The villages are very small.

PERGUNNAH SUNTOSH.

M. C. No. 5 & A PORTION OF M. C. No. 4.

Area 262972·00 acres = 410·89 square miles.

Villages 1,232.

Inhabitants 133,000.

The principal towns are Pateeram and Ramchunderpoor.

Suntosh is the most extensive and important pergunnah in the southern half of Dinagepore. It is a large rice producing tract of country, flat and low; it is divided into two almost equal parts by the Attrai River, which flows through it from North to South; it is also traversed in the same direction by the Koolkhooleea Kharree. The soil is hard, friable, and sandy, and produces good rice during the rains, it is subject to partial inundation. Jungle to a considerable extent exists along the banks of the Attrai, and in some other parts there are several large bheels. The two principal ones are the "Crootrah" and the "Ghooksee;" the latter is on the nullah of that name; both jungle and bheels are infested by tigers, leopards, buffaloes, and wild hog; the two former commit great havoc amongst the horned cattle, and the two latter amongst the rice and sugarcane cultivation. The villages are invariably surrounded and protected by low tree jungle, bamboos, grass; and plantains, and sometimes by tall trees. Tanks and ditches are very abundant, and the country is much cut up and disfigured by them, and by small water-cuts and nullahs.

A good district road runs between the villages of Pateeram and Putneetullah along the Attrai; there are other fair-weather roads connecting the principal villages. The staple is rice, and the following are also cultivated, namely, sugarcane, oil seed, barley, onions, tobacco, potatoes, dall, and small pulses, &c.

The principal granaries on the Attrai are as follows :—Pateeram, Muddengunge, Puglee-bundur, Baloogbat, Rungmutteea, Nujeebpoor, or Putneetullah; at Pateeram and Putnee-tullah there are Thannahs, and at the latter place a Moonsiff's Court. The following are the principal villages having markets :—Ramdebpoor, Bhour, Bissonathpoor, Muglispoor, Dewar, Nazirpoor, Dokra, Ramchunderpoor, Kasheepoor, Bhatgram, Oodoyseeree, Farsi-para, Sunkurpoor, Patee, Aolee, Aranuggur, Putneetullah, Gohun, Dachair Kismut, Bhatra, Mamoodpoor, Futtehpoor, Debeepoor, Baloopora, Pat Kolla, &c.

The southernmost portion of this pergunnah, comprising 97 villages, is under the fis-cal and judicial jurisdiction of Bograh.

PERGUNNAH SAGOONAH.

Portion of M. C. No. 8.

Area 53239·30 acres = 83·19 square miles.

Villages 244.

Inhabitants 27,000.

Capital, Jumalgunge Boozoorg.

This is one of those pergunnahs which were transferred to Bograh in 1851, and now belongs to that District. It is an oblong tract of country, stretching North and South; its eastern boundary follows the course of the Juboona River for a considerable extent, and that of the Soolfee Khaoree to the West. It is traversed from North to South by the Cheeree River. The country is very jungly, overrun by dense tree forest and grass jungle. There is a large bheel near Mungulbarree, and several others; tigers, puffaloes, and wild pigs are very abundant, and destructive. Almost the whole pergunnah is composed of Poollee land, which, in a great measure, accounts for the excessive amount of dense jungle and other waste land. Jungle springs up with amazing rapidity.

Government possess several khas mehals, which comprise a large portion of this per-gunnah, and are farmed by G. R. Payter, Esquire, who has a handsome double-storied house at Jaypoor, on the Juboona River—(see "khas mehals," page 15.) Good roads intersect this jungly tract in all directions, all of which were made by the late Mr. J. W. Payter, the

former Izaradar of the khas mehals, or by the present incumbent. They communicate with the Thannahs of Budulgachee and Lall Bazar, and connect the periodical markets of Mungulbarree and Jumalgunge Boozoorg. The latter place is the chief town of the pergunnah, is situated on the Juboona River, and is the residence of Ramchunder Saha, who possesses several brick and mortar houses, keeps a number of elephants, and is reputed to be a wealthy man. Jumalgunge is a substantial Bengal village. Besides the foregoing, the following villages have hâts,—Doorgadoho, Mullaipoor, and Jaypoor. Indigo was formerly made at Jaypoor. Both "Ouse" and "Buddai" rice is cultivated; sugarcane, surcha, and other oil seeds, onions, dalls of kinds, barley, oats, and potatoes are also freely raised. Sugarcane and cotton are not so extensively cultivated as formerly, (see page 40, under the head "sugarcane"). The number of tanks is less than in other parts of the southern half of the District.

Several Dangah families, introduced by the late Mr. J. W. Payter, are squatted in the jungly parts of this Pergunnah. They are good cultivators, and very useful in keeping down the number of wild pigs.

PERGUNNAH KANGORE.

Portion of M. C. No. 8.

Area 69580·32 = 108·72 square miles.

Villages 290.

Inhabitants 31,900.

The Capital is Komarpoor Oorf, or Hillee, on the Juboona.

This is likewise one of the Dinagepore Pergunnahs transferred to Bograh in 1851. It is bounded on the North by Pergunnah Surhutta; to the East and South by Pergunnahs Ghoraghat and Poladassee; and to the West by Sugoonah. The Toolseegunga River runs through it from North to South. It is a flat country, rather open, but there is no deficiency of jungle, grass patches, and marshes in different localities. That portion to the West of the Juboona River is decidedly jungly, and unlike the rest of the pergunnah. The Bograh high road, passable for carts at all seasons, passes through it from North to South. Branch roads lead to Ghoraghat on the Kurooteea River, and from Lall Bazar to Jaypoor. Mr. G. R. Payter, who is an influential landholder in this pergunnah also, has a dwelling-house and cutcherry at Baugjannah on the Juboona and Bograh high road. This village was formerly a place of some consequence. There is a dense jungle immediately in its vicinity, which contains several fine temples, and the ruins of others, and numerous well built burnt brick houses, (some in a good state of preservation), the residences of its former inhabitants; also many fine tanks, some overgrown with aquatic weeds and jungle, now the resort of tigers. There are likewise the ruins of an indigo factory. Hillee is a large grain mart on the Juboona, it has also a market, bazar, and Police Chowkey. There is a Moonsiffee at

Dum-dumma, which is also a grain depôt, and has a market. In former days, the late East India Company had an agency at Dum-dumma, for the purchase of cloth manufactured in this neighbourhood, and there was a Post Office at Buxygunge, where the ruins of an indigo factory now exists. At Lall Bazar, there is a Police Thannah under the Bograh Magistracy. The following villages have hâts. Shampore, Belamlee, Kandurlee, Hichmee, Baugjannah, and Panchbeebee. The following articles were offered for sale at the latter market in March 1860, namely, cows, goats, fowls, eggs, pigeons, fish, rice, dhan, parched rice, potatoes about the size of marbles, sweet potatoes, beans (sema), parched beans, unrefined sugar, sugarcane, brinjalls, chillies, (red pepper), huldee or turmeric, plaintains, pawn leaves, betelnuts, spices, sweetmeats, mudruk (an intoxicating drink), tobacco leaf, skull caps, combs, brushes, tools, native jewellery, shoes, flour, handees, and other water vessels and water pots, canes, bamboos, glass bead necklaces and bracelets, bamboo mat baskets for holding grain, baskets of sorts, fans made of the leaf of the palm tree, bamboo mats, raw silk from Palmer Christie silk-worm, playthings, bridal ornaments, and votive offerings made of solah. Hookahs made of cocoanuts, ganjah, intoxicating drug for smoking, knives, soap, wax, brass and iron pots and pans, oil of kinds, empty bottles of sorts, lead, dalls, pulses, cotton (raw state), pumpkins, milk, curds ghee, chunam, wheat. Also the following articles of import:—salt, cocoanuts, pictures, books, looking-glasses, long stockings, cotton piece goods, fishing lines and hooks, paper, pens, needles, thread, string, tape, pins, and lucifer matches. The Panchbeebee is larger than the generality of the village hâts.

Articles offered for sale at a hât.

PERGUNNAH POLADASSEE.

Portion of M. C. No. 8.

Area 111737·00 = 174·59 square miles.

Villages 465.

Inhabitants 50,800.

Capital is Kashba Kismut, on the Bograh high road.

About one-half of this large tract, which is composed of portions of several pergunnahs, belongs to Bograh. The eastern portion belongs to Dinagepore. Great confusion exists in the Fiscal and Magisterial Boundaries. Pergunnah Kanjore has been transferred entirely to Bograh, whilst portions of Poladassee, a pergunnah much nearer to Bograh, remain under the jurisdiction of Dinagepore; but the final settlement of these pergunnahs is under consideration.*

This tract is bounded to the East by the Kurooteea River; to the South by three Bograh Pergunnahs; and to the West by Pergunnahs Futteyjungpoor, Sugoonah, and Kangore. The

* The whole has now been transferred to *District Bograh*,—January, 1863.

Bograh high road crosses the south-western corner, and there are other fair-weather roads; but, on the whole, there is a great deficiency of communication between villages. It is a large, flat, open country, in which rice is abundantly produced; it is a good deal cut up by tanks, ditches, and marshes; some of the latter are of considerable dimensions, and are frequented by herds of wild buffaloes, which cause great destruction to the sugarcane and rice crops. It is traversed from North to South by the Toolseegunga, and a branch of that river, on the banks of which tigers are abundant. The following villages possess periodical markets:—Sirhuttee, Kristanuggur, Hatashur, Pancetullah, Daridoho, Sureerhât, Etakholarhât, &c. There is a Bograh Police Thannah at Kusba Kismut, called Khet Loll.

PERGUNNAH MUDNABUTTEE.

Portion of M. C. No. 7.

Area 16374·35 acres = 25·58 square miles.

Villages 66.

Inhabitants 7,000.

Principal Town, Huzrutpoor.

This is a small tract bordering on the District of Maldah, following the course of the Tangun River to the West, and traversed by the Poornababa River from North to South. It is low and marshy, much cut up by small khalls; there are many tanks; and it is considered very unhealthy. The largest bheel is to the South, and called "Chukdha" bheel. Rice is the staple; the early rice called "Boro Dhan" is obtained from the beds of the marshes and khalls at the commencement of the rains. There is a market at Huzrutpoor and another at Beesrole. Basorea is a place of some note. It is subject to inundation during the rains. Some of the villages are moderately large.

PERGUNNAH DEBIKOTE.

Portion of M. C. No. 7.

Area 26523·73 acres = 41·44 square miles.

Villages 76.

Inhabitants 8,200.

The chief Town is Dum-Dumma, on the Poornababa River.

This is a small pergunnah, situated to the North of the foregoing one, its south-east corner abuts on Maldah District. It is full of swamps and nullahs; there are several large

marshes in it, the principal of which are the "Man," the "Seekla," the "Hoorcepoor," and the "Kootamace;" it is very unhealthy in consequence of all these marshes and low ground. "Bora Dhan" is cultivated in the swamps, as they dry up in March and April. The Pooranababa runs through it from North to South, and the Tangun River forms the boundary for a few miles, along the south-west corner, which corner is also traversed by the Maldah high road. There is an old Fort at Dum-Dumma, which contains Gungaram Thannah; and there is a G. T. S. Station at Indurnarainpoor. There are two large tanks near Dum-Dumma, called "Dhul Dhiggee" and "Kall Dhiggee." Places having markets are Gungarampoor and Sibpoor; the latter has a grain mart on the Tangun. Belharree and Joypoor are also places of note; the villages are moderately large, and the country is much inundated during the rains.

PERGUNNAH SUSBEER.

Portion of M. C. No. 7.

Area 52488·50 acres=82·01 square miles.

Villages 168.

Inhabitants 17,000.

Capital Town, Tara, a Grain mart, on the Attrai.

This is a fine, open, rice producing pergunnah, situated nearly in the centre of the District. The Attrai runs through it near its north-eastern boundary, and the Pooranababa traverses the western portion of it; the Darjeeling high road passes from North to South through its centre, and a District road leading to the Town of Dum-Dumma, and running parallel with the Pooranababa, traverses the western portion. Bordering on Pergunnah Debikote is a large bheel, called "Patace;" there are a vast number of tanks, and a very fine one at Pransaugor. The villages average half a square mile. The village sites are well secured in thickest of trees, low jungle, bamboos, grass, and plantains. Some of the principal places are Kathaleehât and Katatoir on the Pooranababa River, and Bantara on the Attrai. The following villages have markets:—Katatoir, Mahoor, Kismut Uday, Chaloon, Tara, and Takroonhât.

PERGUNNAH MALIGONG.

Portion of M. C. No. 12.

Area 31592·76 acres=49·36 square miles.

Villages 156.

Inhabitants 17,000.

Principal Town is Mahipal.

This is a small pergunnah, bounded to the West by the Tangun River. The south-west corner abuts on Maldah. The Maldah high road runs through the pergunnah parallel to the

Tangun; the southern portion is flat and open, the northern jungly and grassy, and covered with swamps. Tanks are very numerous, and some contain alligators. The staple is rice, sugarcane, oil seeds, tobacco, potatoes; dalls, &c., are also cultivated.

There is a Moonsiffee at Sahut.

The following villages have periodical markets:—Boro Hât and Kantabarree.

The former Rajah of Maligong had his residence at Mahissal, where there is an extensive tank, but the whole place is now a dense jungle.

PERGUNNAH SOOLTANPOOR.

Portion of M. C. No. 9.

Area 62740·22 acres = 98·03 square miles.

Villages 320.

Inhabitants 35,000.

The principal town in this tract is Berampoor, a large grain mart on the Juboona.

This pergunnah is a flat and rather open country, but there is no scarcity of jungle, tanks, bheels, or water-courses. The high road to Bograh passes through the whole extent from North to South, and it is traversed in different directions by the thannah road, leading from Nowabgunge to Dinagepore, and that connecting the Thannahs of Chintamun and Pateeram in the adjoining Pergunnah of Suntosh. The Chiree, Ghooksee, Koolkooleea, and Juboona Rivers all traverse it from North to South, and other minor streams exist. Some of the principal bheels are called the Kaleedooh to the North, and the "Kochua," "Mana," to the South. The following villages have markets:—Mirzapoor, Khata, Borar, Ketra, Jote Banee, Berampoor, Batool, and Kantlah; the latter is a grain mart on the Juboona. This tract is subject to inundation from the Juboona during the rains. Rice is the staple product. The following are also sparingly cultivated:—sugarcane, oil seeds, dalls, potatoes, onions, pawn leaf, tobacco, vetches, &c. Native cloth is made at Batool.

The Government possess some khas mehals in this pergunnah, which are farmed by G. R. Payter, Esq., who has a cutcherry and country residence at Sontapeer, or Basanto Chuck, on the Bogra high road, on the banks of the Juboona.

PERGUNNAH GILLAHBARRER.

Portion of M. C. No. 9.

Area 63708·63 acres=99·54 square miles.

Villages 267.

Inhabitants 29,500.

The Capital is the grain mart of Sumjheea, on the Attrai River, where there is also a Police Thannah and a Native Judge's Court, or Moonsiffee.

This is a large, open, flat, and fertile tract producing much rice. It is bounded to the North and East by the Pergunnahs of Deorah and Surroopoor; to the South by Sooltanpoor and Suntosh; and to the West by the Attrai River; the Bograh high road enters the north-west corner at Sumjheea, and traverses it diagonally to Chintamun in the south-east corner. The Pateeram thannah road also passes through it; it is well watered by the Attrai, Juboona, and Echamuttee Rivers, and is subject to inundation during the rains. It is, however, less swampy, and there are fewer ditches and tanks, and is less jungly than any other pergunnah in southern Dinagepore, and better cultivated. It is very highly assessed. Some of the principal places are Soojapoor and Mookhtorpoor, on the Juboona; the former of which is the residence of many Zemindars; and Radhikapoor and Jakheerpoor on the high road. There is a thannah at Dowlutpoor, or Chintamun as it is now more commonly called; it is a new place, and situated on the Bograh high road. There are periodical markets held at the following places:—Gobindgunge, Khyrabarree, Burhea Hât, Shomsherenuggur, Fukeergunge, Gunga persaud, Mooksoodpoor, Chuck Enaeetpoor, Ramanund, Rugoonathgunge, Borahutta, Juloshoree, Malidanga Hât (or Chintamun), Russoolpoor, Koorooldanga, &c. At Gobindgunge there is a granary or golah.

Native cloth is made at Borahutta, and ruins of an Indigo Factory exist at Enaeetpoor.

Besides rice, sugarcane, surcha, dalls, onions, tobacco, &c., are sparingly produced.

There are several Government khas mehals in this pergunnah, also farmed by G. R. Payter, Esq. Annual fairs are held at Fukeergunge on the Attrai, and at Joykistoopoor, near Chintamun, as one of the Government khas mehals, and instituted by Mr. Payter. Both are held in April; at the latter considerable purchases of cattle, cloth, and other commodities take place, and it is numerously attended.

PERGUNNAH SURHUTTA.

Portion of M. C. No. 9.

Area 51877·98 acres = 81·60 square miles.

Villages 233.

Inhabitants 25,900.

The principal place in this pergunnah is Turpunghat, situated on the old Kurooteea River.

It is bounded to the North by Pergunnah Surrooppoor; South by Kangore; West by Sooltanpoor, and the Eastern boundary follows the course of the Harina River, which is the name given to the northern portion of the Toolseegunga. It is flat and open, but many patches of tree and thorn jungle exist, also a few "Salbuns," or small forests of bastard sal trees. It is traversed by the Badr River; and there are several large bheels in the vicinity of Turpunghat; the "Ansoolar," "Boronee," and "Koorecar" are amongst the largest. There is a Police Thannah, Abkarree Moonsiffee, and Deputy Magistrate's Court-house at Nawabgunge, in the extreme North of the pergunnah, on the old Kurooteea. In former days there existed a Government Opium Factory at Daoodpoor, two miles south-east from the Thannah; also a fine bazar; but both are now in ruins; it is still, however, of some note, as being the place of residence of some influential Zemindars who have their offices there. The place is overgrown with dense thorn and tangled jungle, and, being situated on high ground, is a favourite resort of tigers during the rains, who, at that season of the year, occasionally cut off the communication between Turpunghat and the Thannah. Other places of note are Choseekai and Bijun, and those having markets are Nawabgunge, Bijun, Banninshar, Atta Diggee, Digshun, Daoodpoor, &c. An annual fair is held at Turpunghat in April, and called "Baroone;" it lasts 15 days, and is attended by 4 or 5,000 persons. The district road leading from Chintamun Thannah to Ghoraghat runs through this pergunnah, and is partially traversed by that from Hubra to Daoodpoor. It is subject to inundation.

The staple product, as usual, is rice; and sugarcane, tobacco, surcha, dalls, &c., are also produced.

PERGUNNAH KHASTALOOK.

Portion of M. C. No. 9.

Area 59701·05 acres = 93·28 square miles.

Villages 294.

Inhabitants 32,000.

Capital Town is Ghoraghat, on the Kurooteea River.

This tract contains portions of Pergunnah Ghoraghat, as well as of several others; it is bounded to the East by the Rungpore District, from which it is divided by the Kurooteea

River; it is much cut up and intersected by rivers and khalls. The Mora, a branch of the Kurooteea River, flows through it from North to South. A large tract of sâl and other tree jungle, dense and impenetrable, runs a few miles from the Kurooteea, and parallel with it nearly the whole length of the pergunnah, and is infested by tigers, leopards, wild buffalo, hog, deer, and peacocks, all of which are very destructive.

The staple is rice, but a good deal of the country being the Poollee land, potatoes, sugar-cane, tobacco, oil seeds, pawn, dalls, and such like, are freely cultivated. Villages having hâts are Bulgarree, Bhadooriya, Raneegunge, and Ghoraghat; the latter place is the only one in the whole southern part of Dinagepore that can be called *a Town*. It has one good street of Bunneahs' and other dealers' shops. There are a few substantially constructed houses made of brick mortar, but the others are mere Bengal huts, with the walls made of bamboo and grass bundles, in the usual hog-back style of the Dinagepore ryot. There is a Police Thannah at this place, and a cart road leading to Dinagepore *viâ* Badooreea. There are large tracts of waste land in the vicinity of the town, which are said to have formed the site of a military cantonment, with Ghoraghat for the head quarters, in the days when *Gour* was the seat of Government in Bengal.

A portion of this tract is under the Magistracy of Rungpore, in the Thannah of Raneegunge.

PERGUNNAHS BABUNPOOR AND GHORAGHAT.

Portion of M. C. No. 8.

Area 36844·57 acres = 57·57 square miles.

Villages 172.

Inhabitants 18,000.

The principal place in this tract is Fukeergunge, on the Kurooteea River.

The course of the Kurooteea River forms the eastern boundary, and divides it from Pergunnah Mookhterpoor. A cart road leading from Ghoraghat to Bogra enters the northern limit, and traverses it throughout its entire length.. The southern portion is open, flat, and well cultivated; the northern is more jungly, more particularly along the Kurooteea, where there are some large patches of dense tree and thorn jungle full of tigers, leopards, wild buffaloes, and hog. There are hâts at the following villages:—Chapurer Hât, Fukeergunge, and Kamdiya Hât. The lands are much intermixed, there being portions of a dozen pergunnahs in this tract. Rice is the staple produce; sugarcane, oil seeds, small pulses, &c., are sparingly cultivated as usual, and the country is liable to inundation. This entire tract has recently been transferred to the Bograh District.

PERGUNNAH SURROOPPOOR.

Portion of M. C. No. 10.

Area 138345·88 acres = 216·16 square miles.

Villages 239.

Inhabitants 26,000.

Habra is the principal place.

This is a long narrow tract, runing North and South, about 30 miles in length, bounded to the Eastward by the Kurooteea River, which is here an insignificant, slow, and tortuous stream, and divides this pergunnah from Rungpoor district, and has the appearance of having silted up of late years. This tract is very much intersected by water-cuts, dry nullahs, and small streams. There are several outlying patches of bastard sâl trees; jungle exists in the extreme South near Nawabgunge, and towards the North in the vicinity of Bagchurra, which is infested with tigers. At the former place some of these animals are said to be man-eaters. Leopards, wild buffaloes, and boars are found in the bheels and jungle, and are very destructive. The Rungpoor road runs across it from East to West, and a fair-weather cart road from Jessai, on the Juboona, passes through Habra and leads to Nawabgunge Thannah.

Clumps of fine bamboos are everywhere to be seen. I have nowhere seen finer ones of the sort. Rice is the staple, but the following are also freely cultivated—sugarcane, ginger, turmeric, oil seeds, hemp, pât, tobacco, pawn leaf, and onions.

Habra is a large grain mart situated on the small river named Tillai, which falls into the Juboona near Basoodebpoor. There is also a Police Thannah here. The following villages have markets:—Hubra, Baugchurra, Mungulbarree, Jessai, and Phoolbarree. There are many ruins of Indigo Factories in this tract, more particularly along the Mose, Kurooteea, and Juboona Rivers.

PERGUNNAH PANJRAH.

M. C. No. 11.

Area 89596·74 acres = 139·99 square miles.

Villages 188.

Inhabitants 20,500.

The principal place in this pergunnah is Jaygunge, on the Upper Attrai River, here called Teesta.

This also is a long narrow tract, bounded to the North by the large Pergunnah of Salbarree; East by District Rungpoor; South by Pergunnahs Surrooppoor, Deora, and Bejoynuggur;

and West by Pergunnah Noorpoor. The Teesta River enters its northern boundary, and, after traversing it a long way South, bifurcates on the south-western boundary, and loses its name; the eastern branch becomes the Attrai, and the western branch the Dhapa, until its confluence with the Pooranababa. The Juboona also enters its north-eastern limit, and flows through it in a southerly direction. This pergunnah is full of khalls and half filled up beds of large rivers. Rice is extensively cultivated in the low flat lands, also in the old beds of rivers, but the land being higher than it is to the South of the district, the following are also freely raised on the Poollee land—sugarcane, tobacco, onions, potatoes, pât, sun, ginger, turmeric, oil seeds, gram, pawn leaf, dalls, and vetches, of which ginger, turmeric, sugar, onions, and pât are exported. Bamboos are very abundant and luxuriant in growth. The villages, on an average, are nearly a square mile; the horned cattle and goats are of a less diminutive size than in the southern pergunnahs. There are also fewer tanks. The following places have periodical markets:—Khunsaman Bundur, Jhurbarree, Bhoosee, Bindakhorree, Jayjunge, and Gobindpoor; the three first of which, and Jaygunge, have grain marts.

PERGUNNAH BAJITPOOR.

Portion of M. C. No. 12.

Area 76954·01 acres = 120·24 square miles.

Villages 270.

Inhabitants 29,200.

The chief towns in this Pergunnah are Chowsa Kismut, Futtehpore, and Ruttunnair.

This large tract is situated to the West of the Town of Dinagepore, and its eastern boundary follows the course of the Toollai, and that of the Seramuttee to the West. The Tangun River flows through the centre of it, from North to South, and the south-eastern portion is traversed by the Maldah high road. The soil is sandy, and the country low, and during the rains becomes mostly inundated. The Tangun River runs through a stiff yellow clay, and has a narrow and deep bed. During the rains it is navigable for boats of the largest size, and for eight months of the year for boats of 100 maunds, and at all times for small boats and canoes. There is a Police Thannah on the western bank of the Seramuttee, from which a good fair-weather road leads to Dinagepore. Rice is the staple product in the bed of the Seramuttee River; "Boro Dhan" is extensively sown; oil seeds, sugarcane, and gram, are also sparingly cultivated.

The inhabitants are less timid than those in the South, and the watchmen of villages act willingly as guides. Leopards and pigs are the only wild animals of any moment. The G. T. S. Stations of Chandol and Ahatgara occur within this tract, and that of Ramchunderpoor on its north-eastern limit. Villages having markets are as follows:—Karunjee, Paneesala, and Chowsa Kismut, on the Tangun; Poongaon, Dhankail, and Ruttunnair.

PERGUNNAH BEEJOYNUGGER.

Portion of M. C. No. 12.

Area 119550·55 acres = 186·80 square miles.

Villages 392.

Inhabitants 43,300.

The Capital is the Town of Dinagepore, on the left bank of the Pooranababa River, the statistics of which are given at page 8.

This pergunnah is situated in the centre of the district; it is bounded to the East by the Attrai River, to the West by the Toollai nullah. The Darjeeling high road traverses its whole extent from North to South. Raised earthen roads diverge from the town and Civil Station and lead to Rungpore, Bograh, Maldah, and Purneah. The country is mostly inundated during the rains, but the sites of the native town and Civil Station, on the banks of the Pooranababa, are high, and above inundation mark. The soil is hard, friable, and sandy, and produces a richer crop of rice than that of any other pergunnah in Dinagepore. It is almost entirely owned by the Rajah of Dinagepore, and besides rich crops of rice, yields surcha, sugarcane, vetches, grass, &c. The principal grain marts are as follows:—Sahibgunge, on the Attrai, to the South-east, and Nyabundur and Nawabunder, the latter is 18 miles south of the Town of Dinagepore, and forms the emporium of that place and the Civil Station during the dry months of the year, when boats of large tonnage cannot reach Dinagepore. The following are the principal hâts:—Chuck Kunchun, Madhubpore, Debpoor, and Kashiadonga, on the Pooranababa; Ishanpoor, Nashipoor, Mohadebpoor, and Sookhdebpoor, on the Dhapa; Chuck Parbutteepoor on the Attrai; Tajpoor, Baranee, Berole, Gopinathpoor, Polashbarree, Bassooreea, and Sydebpoor.

There is a Kotwallee in the Town of Dinagepore, also four Police Chowkies and an Abkarree Chowkie; and at Rajarampoor, on the Gabhoor, or Gubeshuree, two miles to the eastward, are Police Thannahs. Tanks are very abundant, and amongst them there are some very fine ones; two near the Rajah's residence, East of Dinagepore, called "Anund Saugor" and "Matha Saugor," and one at Ramsagur, six miles South of the Station, on the Calcutta high road, are the principal. The latter is the favourite resort and bathing place of the European community of Dinagepore, during the hot weather and rains.

Beyond a few leopards, it is little infested by wild animals, except at one or two localities in the vicinity of the station, well-known to sportsmen as the resort of tigers.

There are 3 annual fairs, the principal of which is held in the beginning of November, two and half miles south-east of the Civil Station, at Neemtarah, in honor of Radhabullub Thakoor, and is patronized by the Rajah of Dinagepore, and attended by two or three thousand people. The other two are of less note. The greater portion of this pergunnah is owned the Rajah of Dinagepore.

PERGUNNAH DEORAH.

Portion of M. C. No. 10.

Area 72695·16 acres=113·58 square miles.

Villages 257.

Inhabitants 28,200.

The principal place is Jetmulpoor, situated at the confluence of the Kankra and Cheeree Rivers, on the Rungpore high road; it has a market and a bazar, also a grain mart, called Cheereebundur, which derives its name from the latter river. The eastern boundary follows the course of the Juboona, and the western that of the Attrai River, with occasional breaks. The Echamuttee flows through it from North to South; also the Kankra, which is a branch of the Attrai, which bifurcates at Shugetora, and unites at Dhakaer; the Cheeree enters the pergunnah at the south-west corner, and unites with the Kankra at Jetmulpoor. The Rungpore high road traverses its centre from East to West. The country generally is flat and open, and produces fine crops of rice; tanks and bamboos are plentiful; wild animals are not so numerous as in some of the adjoining pergunnahs. The following villages have hâts:—Binyakhooree, Phiringe, Jessai, &c., and there is a large granary at Phiringe, on the Attrai River. There are the remains of an Indigo Factory at Chuck Joydebpoor, on the Juboona, and other places.

PERGUNNAH DHANJAR, &C.

M. C. No. 13.

Area 60759·88 acres=9,493 square miles.

Villages 261.

Inhabitants 28,200.

The principal villages are Bungsihari and Painala; and those having hâts are Galchora, Mungulbaree, Aonuggur, Guldighee, Teelai, Hurreerampoor, &c. It is bounded on the East by the Tangun, and on the West by the Cheeramuttee Rivers, and to the South by the Maldah district. The Bulia nullah, traversing it from North to South, divides it into two equal parts. The country is low, and during the rains subject to inundation. There is a Police Thannah at Bungsihari.

PERGUNNAHS SURHUR, MANKOLE, RADHABULLUBPOOR, &C.

M. C. No. 14.

Area 201256·92 acres=314·47 square miles.

Villages 570.

Inhabitants 63,300.

The principal Town is Chooramun, a grain mart of considerable importance, on the Mahanuddee River. These pergunnahs form a long tract of country running North and South; bounded on the East by the Cheeramuttee River; South by the Maldah District; and West by the Mahanuddee. This tract is low and swampy, with large grass patches and bheels, and is subject to inundation. A cart road leading from Raigunge to Maldah passes through the Southern or Radhabullubpoor portion. There is a Thannah at Akhanuggur, on the Cheeramuttee River; and the following have markets places:—Nia Boridangee, Boidan, Kulliangunj, Bholagunj, Koonar Bhubaneegunj, Majeer, Sarolie, Patheruj, Baigungaon, Gouripoor, Doomrol, Dakeehar, Suneebarree, Katabarree, Bodbharee, &c.

PERGUNNAHS TAJPOOR, MOHASAN, KHALARA, &C.

M. C. No. 15.

Area 168814·78 acres=263·77 square miles.

Villages 352.

Inhabitants 39,072.

This tract is bounded on the East by the Tangun, and on the West by the Nagur, which divides it from the District of Purneah.

The principal town in Pergunnah Tajpoor is Raigunge, situated on the Koolik River, and is the most important place of trade in the District. It contains a Moonsiffee. Some of the market villages are the following:—

Sherajgunge, Fukeergunge, Koldangi, Bindol, Balaiya Dighee, Barodooaree, Jogee, Punch Bya, Moharaja, Peergacheer, Kalee Doorgapoor, Baodabaree, &c.

The principal place in Pergunnah Mohasan is Hemtabad, 26 miles West of Dinagepoor, where there is a Police Thannah. A cart road leads to Dinagepore, and another, which connects the Raigunge and Peergunge Thannahs, passes through it. On the North-east of this pergunnah follows the course of the Tangun, and on the South-east that of the Gamar River, and on the West the Koolik.

It is full of marshes, and subject to inundation. The following places have hâts:—Jarbar, Karnay, Lochun Mundil, Gomasta, Sunnispoor, Boraicbaree, Peergunge, &c. It also contains the G. T. S. Station of Chendoria.

Pergunnah Khalara borders on the Purneah District, from which it is divided by the Nagur River. The principal village is Hureepoor; and the following are some of the chief hâts :—Bedsurree, Coosteea, Sutcekuta, Shibgunge, Betna, Situlsiri, Dhirgunge, Bugeecha, Kaleegunge, Digheer, &c.

PERGUNNAHS JHAPARTOIL, BEHINUGGUR, (PORTION OF) &C.

M. C. No. 15½.

Area 50653·52 acres = 79·14 square miles.

Villages 168.

Inhabitants 18,648.

This tract, comprising Pergunnahs Jhapartoil and Behinuggur, is situated to the north-west of the Town of Dinagepoor. The first-named pergunnah is traversed by the Tangun River and other smaller streams; also by the high road from Kishengunge to Dinagepore. It is neither so low nor so swampy as the pergunnahs to the South of it. The principal village is Sadamahal; and the following have hâts :—Rampoor, Ajnabad, Seebpoor, Chubbooreea, &c.

The remaining pergunnah is a long tract running North and South, the southern extremity being parallel with, and distant 3 miles from, the Town of Dinagepoor. The eastern boundary follows the course of the Pooranababa, and the western the Toolai River. It contains some large jheels and grass patches, but the country is higher than that to the South. The following are such of the principal villages as have periodical markets :—Sorahar, Bhundkalee, Opurpuree, Huripoor, Shekarpoor, Dhookurjharee, Beroll, &c.

The preceding Main Circuits, Nos. 13,14,15, and 15½, forming the south-western portion of the District, containing an aggregate area of 752·31 square miles, and 1,351 villages, were surveyed by Mr. R. B. Smart, Revenue Surveyor, 1st Division, in season 1860-61, to whom I am indebted for the following general remarks relating thereto.

"*Nature of the country.*—The surface is undulating, with perceptible inclination to the south-west, and elevated about 150 feet above the level of the sea. The land is well cultivated, but encumbered with extensive patches of coarse grass, and marshes covered with reed jungle. During the rains the rivers overflow their banks, and render a large extent of country a sheet of water."

"*Productions.*—The crops raised are rice, sugarcane, Indian corn, and pulses of many kinds; tobacco is grown principally in the vicinity of the villages. The use of tobacco is universal amongst the men and women; even children of tender years are seen smoking the 'hookha.' The chewing of beetul is also indulged in by all classes. The rice harvest is carried on very carelessly. The ears being cut off, the straw is not always considered worth removing, and is left on the field. The grain is removed by labourers; carts and cattle are seldom

used for this purpose. Indigo was extensively cultivated some years ago in the neighbourhood of Chooramun under Native superintendence; but, from want of proper care and attention to the quality of the dye, the speculation proved unprofitable. Several old pâts are still to be seen at Chooramun."

"*Fisheries.*—Fish exist in all the bheels, and large supplies of fish are taken daily to Raigunge and the neighbouring market towns. The methods of catching fish are various; drag and casting nets are in general use. The "Jhullongga," or trap made of bamboos, is much used in small rivers and marshes. Regular fishermen pay proprietors for the right of fishing; the profits derived from the fisheries are said to be considerable."

"*Roads.*—Two very bad cutcha roads pass through this portion of the District; one leading from Dinagepore to Purneah, passes through Akhurnuggur, Hemtabad, and Raigunge; the other to Kishengunge in Purneah, passes through Bindol and Hurcepoor. The traffic of these parts is carried on by water and Brinjarree bullocks; wheeled conveyances are seldom used. During the dry months pathways are formed, leading from village to village."

"*Soil.*—Generally speaking, the soil is of a light grey colored clay mixed with sand. Immediately under the surface soil, a stiff blue clay appears near the swamps, it is mixed with black vegetable mould, and numerous small fresh water shells. Lands subject to inundation occupy a large proportion to the whole, and present a singular intermixture of barren and fertile soils. One season a field is overwhelmed with sand, and the next year it is covered with a rich and deep deposit of clay."

"*Exports.*—These are mostly confined to rice, paddy, country mats, and boats. The mats are made from a reed which grows on the bheels; the boats are mostly built of sâl timber brought from the Darjeeling Terai, and are exported to Maldah and other places lower down on the Mahanuddee. Pât and gunny bags are brought from the North and shipped on the Mahanuddee."

"*Imports.*—The imports are copper and brass cooking utensils from Maldah and Moorshedabad, cotton from Purneah and the Darjeeling Terai, salt, English cloths, betelnut, and mustard seed."

"*Towns.*—Raigunge is the principal mart for imports and exports, and is situated on the eastern bank of the Koolick River. It is a fine substantial town, surrounded by extensive fields of rice cultivation and numerous tanks. Chooramun, on the Mahanuddee River, is a place of some importance, but considerably less so than Raigunge. The chief markets are the following:—Raigunge, Chooramun, Hurreepoor, Bindol, Doorgapoor, Etahar, Soulie, Bodhooree, and Galchora. English cloths are procurable at Raigunge.

"Most of the villages are wretched in appearance, almost all the houses are thatched with grass, and few have mud walls; most of them have walls made of reeds, plastered with clay. The huts are huddled and fires are frequent and destructive. Mangoe, jack, and palm trees are planted round the villages."

"*Rivers.*—The principal Rivers are the Mahanuddee, Coolick, and Nagur; the latter forms the boundary between this district and Purneah to within 6 miles of Chooramun, when the Mahanuddee becomes the western boundary. The largest boats ascend the Mahanuddee in the rainy months, and extensive rafts of timber are floated down it from the Darjeeling Terrai. The Coolick is a deep but narrow stream, and has its source near the village of Bhogjan, in Pergunnah Salbaree. It falls into the Nagur River about 8 miles north of the junction of the Mahanuddee and Nagur. Besides these rivers there are numerous smaller ones intersecting the country in every direction. There are few bridges; most of the rivers are fordable, except during the rains."

"*Population.*—The inhabitants are mostly Hindoos, though the followers of Mahomet are freely intermixed, as well as the 'Rajbunses,' or 'descendants of Princes.'"

"*Natural productions.*—The country abounds with tigers and leopards, and small game. The former make frequent incursions from the ruins of Gour and Puroa, are very troublesome, destroy much cattle, and occasionally human beings. The long grass along the banks of the Mahanuddee gives shelter to numerous wild hogs. The villagers are harassed at night by watching the crops to keep off wild animals."

"*Climate.*—The climate is remarkable for its humidity. Immediately after the rains, fever is very prevalent, brought on by noxious exhalations from the low lands. During the hot months, though the heat is excessive during the day, the nights are cool. Fevers contracted during the rains are followed by spleen and chronic rheumatism. Dysentery and leprosy are not uncommon."

On the Megna River,
December 13th, 1862.

(Sd.) R. B. SMART,
Revenue Surveyor, 1st Division.

The following three Main Circuits, containing the principal pergunnahs marginally noted, and including portions of Behinuggur and Khalara, embracing an area of 939 square miles, were surveyed in season 1859-60 by the late Mr. J. J. Pemberton, Revenue Surveyor, in consequence of whose untimely death this portion of the District is unrepresented by any geographical or statistical notes of his, but the following have been gathered from different sources.

Salbaree.
Bargaon.
Maldoonr.
Dehátta.
Noorpoor.
Deorah.

PERGUNNAH SALBARREE, (PORTION OF.)

M. C. No. 18.

Area 161708·19 acres=252·67 square miles.

Villages 195.

Inhabitants 21,600.

This tract embraces a portion of the Salbarree Pergunnah, and is situated at the north-eastern extremity of Dinagepore; and is bounded on the East by the Rungpore district, and touches that of Purneah on its northernmost limit; it is also the largest, its extreme length being 35 miles, and breadth 25; the villages also are much larger, the country more open, and higher, and more free from swamps and inundations than any of the southern pergunnahs. Rice is the staple produce; but the following crops are more plentifully raised than in the lower lands:—tobacco, sun, pât, onions, oil seeds, potatoes, huldee, ginger, pulses, &c. It is traversed by the Darjeeling high road, also the Tangun River, through its entire length, from North to South. The following are places of some note:—Akhanuggur, Dakhin Batina, Jangaon, Peergunge, Thakoorgaon, and Nischinteepoor. At the three latter places there are Thannahs, at the two latter Deputy Magistrates' Cutcherries, and at the last one a Moonsiffee. There are about 66 market places, too numerous to name; a Dak Bungalow at Kuhoea, 48 miles from Dinagepore, and 5 Stations of the G. T. S.

PERGUNNAH BARGAON, MALDOOAN, AND DEHATT.

M. C. No. 17.

Area 180457·67 acres=281·96 square miles.

Villages 244.

Inhabitants 27,100.

This tract is the most north-western portion of the district, and is bounded by District Purneah on the North and West, and follows the course of the Tangun River, which separates the two Districts. It is traversed by the Tinai and other minor streams, also by cart roads in various directions.

The principal places are—Taryia, Belyia, Odaipoor Kismut, Bamunkoomar, Kasimpoor, &c.; and some of the principal market places are—Taryia, Rash Bazar, Pooran, Paterkata, Khoochbuharee, Ganjair, Moormala, Kaleegunge, Dogachee, &c., The famous annual fair of "Nekhmurd" is held in the southern portion of Pergunnah Bargaon, at the villages of Bhabundpoor and Fukeergunge, for a description of which, see page 28.

PERGUNNAHS NOORPOOR, BEHINUGGUR (PORTION OF), DEORAH, AND JALBAREE, (PORTION OF.)

M. C. No. 16.

Area 258869·92 acres=404·48 square miles.

Villages 609.

Inhabitants 67,600.

The principal town in this tract is Beergunge, on the Dhapa River, where considerable trade is carried on; there is a Police Thannah, also a Moonsiff's Cutcherry.

It is traversed by the Darjeeling high road, also by the Dhapa, which is a broad branch of the old Teesta River, which retains the above name for about 20 miles, until its confluence with the Pooranababa, which name it then assumes. The country is higher and dryer than the South. Some of the principal hâts are,—old Karrool, Baladhangee, Kantair, Akheragunge, &c. Kantonuggur is a large place on the Darjeeling road, on the banks of the Dhapa, where there is a fine temple. It is the first dâk stage out of Dinagepore.

CAMP RANEEGUNGE,
30*th January* 1863.

J. L. SHERWILL, MAJOR,
Revenue Surveyor, 2nd Division.